B@44 STRONGER TOGETHER RISING FOREVER

The Belize Times

Established 1957

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— The Truth Shall Make You Free —

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DEBUNKING FAKE NEWS

Central Bank Sets the Record Straight

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE
CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE
www.centralbank.org.bz
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Central Bank Clarifies Misinterpretation of Proposed Amendments to the Moneylenders Act
Belize City, 26 August 2025: The Central Bank of Belize wishes to clarify a recent social media post made by a media house that incorrectly suggests that the proposed amendments to the Moneylenders Act and Regulations would increase the maximum interest charged by moneylenders from 48% to 148% per annum. The Central Bank categorically states that this is a gross misinterpretation of the facts and does not accurately reflect the proposed reforms.
On the contrary, the intent of the amendments is to place stricter limits on the total interest, fees, and charges that moneylenders may impose on borrowers, and to simplify the disclosure of costs to consumers. The existing law includes multiple limits, which permit moneylenders to charge:
Up to 48% per annum in interest, as well as
Up to 16% per month in fees and charges (192% per annum),
which, when combined, could result in an effective annual cost to borrowers of up to 240% per annum.
The proposed amendments introduce a consolidated cap on total interest, fees, and charges to a single rate of 144% per annum, almost half the total allowable limit currently in place. This single rate enhances transparency for borrowers and brings greater clarity to the cost of borrowing. Plus, moneylenders will be required to provide standardized disclosures that will include a breakdown of interest, fees, charges, total repayment, penalties and annualized percentage rate, among others, prior to loan acceptance. The amendments also provide mechanisms for enforcement actions and penalties against unlicensed and/or non-compliant entities.
The Central Bank reiterates that the proposed amendments are intended to ensure that all moneylenders operate fairly, transparently, and that consumers are protected from excessive and predatory lending practices. The Central Bank remains committed to promoting fair and responsible lending in Belize and will continue to work closely with licensed moneylenders as the consultation process progresses.
The public is advised that the amendments remain in draft form and are currently undergoing consultation with licensed moneylenders. The Central Bank further reiterates that there has been no official change to the rate that moneylenders are permitted to charge under the current legislation.
The Central Bank strongly encourages media houses and the public to seek official sources for accurate information.

This past week, the Central Bank(CB) has had to contend with a manufactured story on the new money. The CB had to assert that any old or even torn Belizean money, including the new bills, can be taken to any bank and exchanged for a new bill.

Additionally, the Central Bank had another fake story it had to debunk. Below is the release but before let's have some context.

Following the 2020-2021 expurgation of the UDP from Central and Municipal Governments, the Opposition UDP or Alliance for Corruption began its perpetual loss of ideas and its fragmentation towards political demise. History will show that rank incompetence and rampant corruption had done in Barrow's government in the face of a savvy electorate who cannot be fooled. Many will watch newscasts and read posts at 7 and 5 and love it, but when they go to the polls, Belizeans stay Right on Track saying "no" to fake news and manufactured stories.

The opposition scaretakers and independently false media openly lie, in lieu of real solutions, as proven in 2008-2020 rule of UDP infamy.

Recently, this same independent media, hoping for a quick hit of LIKES, have been guilty of posting in haste wrong information. This affects families and their livelihoods. Apologies are often never made public if given at all by these media house thus throwing ethics right

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DEBUNKING FAKE NEWS
Central Bank Sets the Record Straight

out the window.

But when it comes to the Government of John Briceño, the independent media does one of these: One, they ignore the great stories of planBelize success for example, just as they ignored or skimmed over the historic trilateral between Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala.

Or two, the media goes to the event on important Climate or Agriculture or Tourism or Education and even 'sweat fever' for a kidnapper when questioning. Again, this ignores the real story of a quickly progressing Belize and people.

Or three, the fake media on reading a social media post that is obviously AI on steroids faking information on some non-existent issue reposts the unconfirmed story especially if it would hurt the Briceño government. What this media misses is that what hurts the government also hurts the people.

The independent/UDP media is heedless to the fact that the people en masse have elected the PUP because they are successful at creating jobs, and putting money in the pocket of thousands. The PUP and PM Briceño continue to increase access to land, health care, education, and homes in record numbers. The social justice that the PUP of today stands for would definitely stand the scrutiny of the Right Honourable George Price just as it stands the electorate.

The invitation is out to the media.

JOIN the building of Belize and STOP the fakery.

STOP insulting the intelligence of the Belizean people, your viewers.

IF there is Sanctuary Bay-type duping, Vega-level Land hanky panky, Gapi abnormality, Barrow incompetence, Saldivarian significant corruption, something like Boot's poor takeover of Belizean beach, Faber-like misogyny, Shyne-like love for a Visa, or any UDP level of infamy, then point out the facts to the people.

Central Bank Clarifies New Moneylenders Law

Central Bank Clarifies Misinterpretation of Proposed Amendments to the Moneylenders Act

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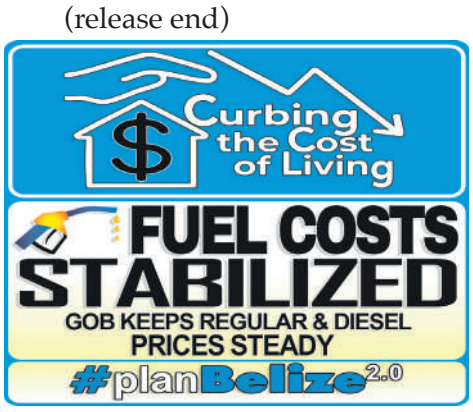
(release end)



Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, August 28, 2025.

The Cabinet met on 26th August 2025.

• In an effort to decrease the cost to the Social Security Board (SSB) for serving the public, thereby contributing to the solvency of the fund by addressing the significant bank charges for processing payment transactions amounting to almost $1 million per year, Cabinet gave its support for a proposal for SSB to become a direct participant with special access to the national payment infrastructure operated by the Central Bank of Belize, known as the Automated Payment and Security Settlement Systems.

• Cabinet took note of the decision by the Government of the United States to issue an Executive Order eliminating the longstanding de minimis duty-free exemption for low-value shipments. "Suspending Duty-Free De Minimis Treatment for All Countries" will take effect on 29th August 2025. Therefore, effective Wednesday, 27th August 2025, the Belize Postal Service will be suspending certain shipments containing goods destined for the United States until further notice. This new rule affects all postal operators worldwide.

• Hon. Orlando Habet, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management, updated Cabinet on the decision of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory opinion on climate change obligations and Belize's significant role in this landmark opinion, as well as the implications of this decision for Belize. The ruling of the Court strengthens Belize's position in global climate negotiations, bolsters the call for more funding for loss and damage, aligns national policies with international obligations, and plays a key role in regional leadership to strengthen climate policy.

• Cabinet took note of the progress to plant one million trees in Belize through the implementation of the Green Belize reforestation project, an initiative to restore degraded landscapes, promote sustainable land use, and build climate resilience countrywide. A Restoration Task Force, comprised of key stakeholder groups including academia, the private sector, and civil society, will be instituted to provide oversight, implementation, and guidance to assist in a national effort to reverse land degradation and promote sustainable development.

• Cabinet discussed the issue of the regional paint industry as it relates to the recent meeting of the Caribbean Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) to increase the Common External Tariff (CET) on paint and paint-related products and the issues that would impact Belize because of the alteration on paints and varnishes.

• Cabinet adopted the Least-Cost Rural Electrification Plan, which identified the most viable and cost-effective initiatives for expanding electricity access in Belize. Cabinet also gave its approval for the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics to work with stakeholders to undertake public electrification projects, including line extensions, minigrid systems, and standalone solar PV systems for households.

• Finally, Cabinet encourages Belizeans to enjoy the festivities as the nation kicks off this year's September Celebrations under the theme: Belize @44: Stronger Together, Rising Forever.

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EDITORIAL

BIS: Bridging Markets, Building Resilience

Now, in late August 2025, La Isla Bonita is set to welcome the Belize Investment Summit (BIS) III from September 3rd to 5th. The Office of the Prime Minister's BIS team, with their meticulous planning and execution, will ensure a successful event, drawing from the experience gained from the first two BISs. Speeches by PM John Briceño, Sandals Resorts International Executive Chairman, Adam Stewart, Guest Speaker Dr. Ernesto Stein, Professor at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico; CEO OPM Narda Garcia, BELTRAIDE's Executive Director Ishmael Quiroz and other panel presenters, which include Ministers of Government, are being fine-tuned for factualness and delivery. Maya IA flights are booked into the island, where anyone serious about investing in Belize will converge. San Pedro and its neighbour, Caye Caulker, hotels are at capacity, primarily the venue, Sunset Caribe.

The star of the summit, Belize, the Jewel, indicates that she is Right on Track, heeding the collective voices heard in November 2021's BIS, on the anniversary of the historic 2020 election. Similarly, late August 2023's BIS was bold and open in offering endless opportunities, as Belize's economic fortunes had triggered the ongoing indication of high investor confidence. When sharing credit for Belize's world-renowned economic recovery, progress, and outlook, the BIS can take a significant share of the credit pie. The greater credit slice can be attributed to the Belizean people, whose political maturity, educational level, skill capacity, and persevering spirit provided the substrate and resilience needed for such an economic feat. The third sizable slice of credit goes to the planBelize government. The planBelize team was twice elected with supermajorities as citizens first considered, then lived, and then evaluated a manifesto of innovative, people-centric ideas. Belize is wholeheartedly demonstrating the grit and readiness to transform itself into the former Canadian Prime Minister Harper's envisioned "economic hub" of the region. Today, Belize's 400,000 people, though few in number, have achieved proper economic integration with Mexico, Guatemala, Central America, the Caribbean, and much further afield, with the USA, Canada, the EU, the UK, Taiwan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and others. Belize is respected by countries, regions, organisations, and, thus, by investors who see this respect as a revenue-generating and lucrative opportunity.

Since 2021, according to Central Bank estimates, Belize has received approximately $1.2 billion in foreign investment inflows, with growth in the real estate, tourism, business process outsourcing (BPO), and aquaculture sectors contributing to promising economic diversification. Investment, of course, then leads to the construction of some kind, which initially creates short-term jobs, followed by the creation of long-term employment, ultimately resulting in an inescapable multiplier effect of economic activity. Belizeans, via micro start-ups, have emerged in record numbers, especially women-led, full of the innovative Belizean spirit and know-how. COVID-19 sparked the rise of the Belizean entrepreneurial spirit, and there is no looking back. Collectively, all stakeholders in Belize have been Bridging Markets, for example, for the typically small commodities like coconuts, as well as revived and retooled shrimp and cattle, and in the relentless pursuit of setting records in all aspects of tourism.

As we celebrate being Stronger Together, the Belize Investment Summit 2025 challenges us to Rise Forever for an even more economically Resilient Belize. Belize welcomes the world to San Pedro from September 3rd to 5th, in either real or virtual mode - don't miss out.

en Español

CIB: Uniendo Mercados, Construyendo Resiliencia

Ahora, a finales de agosto de 2025, La Isla Bonita se prepara para acoger la III Cumbre de Inversión de Belice (CIB) del 3 al 5 de septiembre. El equipo de la CIB de la Oficina del primer ministro, con su meticulosa planificación y ejecución, garantizará el éxito del evento, aprovechando la experiencia adquirida en las dos primeras CIB. Se están ultimando los discursos del primer ministro John Briceño, del presidente ejecutivo de Sandals Resorts International, Adam Stewart, del ponente invitado Dr. Ernesto Stein, profesor del Tecnológico de Monterrey (México), de la directora general de la OPM, Narda García, del director ejecutivo de BELTRAIDE, Ishmael Quiroz, y de otros ponentes del panel, entre los que se encuentran ministros del Gobierno, para garantizar su veracidad y su presentación. Se han reservado vuelos de Maya IA a la isla, donde convergerán todas las personas interesadas en invertir en Belice. Los hoteles de San Pedro y su vecina Caye Caulker están completos, sobre todo el Sunset Caribe, sede del evento.

La estrella de la cumbre, Belice, la Joya, indica que va por buen camino, atendiendo a las voces colectivas escuchadas en la CIB de noviembre de 2021, en el aniversario de las históricas elecciones de 2020. Del mismo modo, la CIB de finales de agosto de 2023 fue audaz y abierta al ofrecer un sinfín de oportunidades, ya que la suerte económica de Belice había desencadenado la continua indicación de una alta confianza de los inversores. A la hora de compartir el mérito de la recuperación económica, el progreso y las perspectivas de Belice, reconocidas mundialmente, la CIB puede atribuirse una parte importante del mérito. La mayor parte del mérito se puede atribuir al pueblo beliceño, cuya madurez política, nivel educativo, capacidad de habilidades y espíritu perseverante proporcionaron la base y la resiliencia necesaria para tal hazaña económica. La tercera parte importante del mérito corresponde al gobierno de planBelize. El equipo de planBelize fue elegido dos veces por mayoría cualificada, ya que los ciudadanos primero consideraron, luego vivieron y luego evaluaron un manifiesto de ideas innovadoras y centradas en las personas. Belice está demostrando con entusiasmo su determinación y disposición para transformarse en el «centro económico» de la región que imaginó el ex primer ministro canadiense Harper. Hoy en día, los 400 000 habitantes de Belice, aunque pocos en número, han logrado una integración económica adecuada con México, Guatemala, Centroamérica, el Caribe y, más allá, con Estados Unidos, Canadá, la Unión Europea, el Reino Unido, Taiwán, Corea del Sur, Arabia Saudita y otros países. Belice es respetado por países, regiones, organizaciones y, por lo tanto, por inversores que ven este respeto como una oportunidad lucrativa y generadora de ingresos.

Desde 2021, según estimaciones del Banco Central, Belice ha recibido aproximadamente 1200 millones de dólares en entradas de inversión extranjera, con un crecimiento en los sectores inmobiliario, turístico, de externalización de procesos empresariales (BPO) y acuícola que contribuye a una prometedora diversificación económica. Por supuesto, la inversión conduce a la construcción de algún tipo, lo que inicialmente crea puestos de trabajo a corto plazo, seguidos de la creación de empleo a largo plazo, lo que en última instancia da lugar a un efecto multiplicador ineludible de la actividad económica. Los beliceños, a través de microempresas emergentes, han surgido en cifras récord, especialmente las dirigidas por mujeres, llenas del espíritu innovador y los conocimientos técnicos de Belice. La COVID-19 ha impulsado el auge del espíritu emprendedor beliceño, y ya no hay vuelta atrás. En conjunto, todas las partes interesadas de Belice han estado tendiendo puentes entre mercados, por ejemplo. Para los productos típicamente pequeños, como los cocos, el camarón y el ganado, que han renacido y se han reestructurado, y en la búsqueda incesante de batir récords en todos los aspectos del turismo.

Mientras celebramos que juntos somos más fuertes, la Cumbre de Inversión de Belice 2025 nos desafía a seguir creciendo para lograr un Belice aún más resiliente económicamente. Belice da la bienvenida al mundo a San Pedro del 3 al 5 de septiembre, ya sea de forma real o virtual. No se lo pierda.

Fighting Fusarium, Tackling Sargassum, Building Resilient Agriculture

Belize's farmers and coastal communities are facing two of the most pressing challenges brought on by climate change—Fusarium wilt and the growing threat of sargassum. Yet even in the midst of these pressures, government action, scientific partnerships, and community collaboration are ensuring that Belize remains strong, innovative, and forward-looking.

Combatting Fusarium in the North

Prime Minister John Briceño recently highlighted the urgent response needed to address the Fusarium fungus, which has been affecting sugarcane farmers for decades but is now thriving under conditions of extreme heat and flooding. The Government has committed $2.6 million to support sugarcane farmers in the affected areas. "The cabinet has just approved emergency action to go into these fields, especially the young growing ones, to apply fungicide and stop the spread," PM Briceño explained. Beyond immediate containment, the government is working with the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to make financing available for farmers willing to replant with new varieties that can withstand Fusarium and other climate-related diseases. This dual approach—short-term containment and long-term resilience—signals the government's commitment to protecting Belize's food security and the livelihoods of rural communities.

Sargassum: An Ongoing Emergency

While farmers face challenges inland, coastal towns continue to battle the massive influx of sargassum. San Pedro Town alone reported removing over 190 tons of the seaweed in just one week, underscoring both the severity of the problem and the resilience of local workers and volunteers.

Recognizing the escalating impact, the Cabinet has endorsed an Emergency Response Plan developed by the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Blue Economy. The plan includes direct financial assistance for municipal cleanup, incentives to transport sargassum to safe disposal sites, and the creation of a regional monitoring and early warning system.

Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, noted that while no country in the region has a complete solution, Belize is leveraging research and international cooperation. "We are trying to piggyback on what other countries are doing—whether it's Finland's pilot machinery with the Dominican Republic or ongoing studies on safe landfill use," Habet explained. He emphasized the government's commitment to balancing immediate cleanup with research on long-term environmental impacts, including heavy metals present in the seaweed.

Meanwhile, local councils, like San Pedro Town Council, continue to mobilize community action, inviting residents to bring pitchforks and wheelbarrows for

early-morning cleanups. This collective spirit underscores that while the government provides support and structure, Belizeans themselves remain key players in protecting their marine environment.

Sargassum can be seen even under the historic Swing Bridge, which underscores in ubiquity that makes it a vicious plaque that Belize is doing its utmost given resources to manage—as eliminating is most probably impossible.

Healthy Soils, Stronger Farmers

Even as Belize addresses crises, it is laying foundations for future resilience. On August 25, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise (MAFSE), in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), launched the National Soil Doctor Training Program. This initiative trains agricultural extension officers to become certified trainers, who will in turn build a network of community-level "Soil Doctors" across the country.

These soil champions will work directly with farmers to diagnose soil problems, promote conservation, and introduce climate-smart practices. By strengthening soil management, the program aims to improve productivity, slow degradation, and ensure that Belize's land remains fertile for generations.

This effort reflects Belize's broader commitment to sustainable agriculture, resilience to climate change, and empowerment of local communities. It is not just about fixing soil problems today—it is about building a culture of stewardship and innovation that will safeguard national food security.

Rising Stronger Together

From emergency fungicide treatments in the north, to sargassum removal in coastal towns, to long-term investments in soil health, the Government of Belize continues to respond with action and vision. Each initiative—whether short-term relief or long-term reform—moves Belize closer to a stronger, more resilient future.

August 27, 2025

btl
Belize Telemedia Limited

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the NINETEENTH Annual General Meeting (the **"Meeting"**) of Belize Telemedia Limited (the **"Company"**) will be held on **Thursday, the 18th day of September 2025**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. where the following business will be transacted, viz.:

1. To receive and consider the Report of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st of March 2025.
2. To consider and declare a dividend for the period ended 31st of March 2025.
3. To elect a "Publicly Elected Director" (see notes attached).
4. To appoint Auditors for the 2025 to 2026 fiscal year and authorize the Board to agree on their remuneration.

Please be informed that the Company will provide virtual access to the Meeting for Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies to join the Meeting virtually. Shareholders and duly authorized Proxies who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting in this manner must pre-register at **www.livedigi.com/agm-2025** no later than 10:00 a.m. on or before **16th of September 2025**. Upon registration, Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies will receive an email with further instructions and information. Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies will only be able to access the Meeting virtually using a laptop or desktop computer. This access will form part of the formal proceedings of the Meeting. Shareholders will be able to access the Report of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st of March 2025 via the BTL's official Digi Website (**www.livedigi.com**).

Please be reminded that a member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a Proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A Proxy need not be a member of the company. Please note that Mr. Eric Eusey (Publicly Elected Director and member) has indicated his willingness to act as proxy on your behalf and we urge you to appoint him as proxy as noted above. Kindly submit your proxy form to the registered office of the Company at the Esquivel Telecom Center, #1 Saint Thomas Street, Belize City, Belize no later than 10:00 a.m. on or before **16th of September 2025.**

For more information contact us at prdept@livedigi.com.

Innovatively Transforming Education

More Students Have Access

This week marks the reopening of preschools, primary schools, after the 25th openings of secondary schools, which followed the earlier opening of tertiary institutions across the country—this signaled not just the end of the scholastic summer, but the beginning of another ambitious year of transformation for Belize's education system. Backed by the Government of Belize, which funds 633 schools and pays full salaries and benefits for more than 5,000 teachers, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) continues to reshape how Belize learns, teaches, and grows. The teachers in particular are looking forward to the first tranche of the 8.5 percent and later the increments. The threatened prevention of opening of schools was obviously averted by cooler decision makers led by PM John Briceño and the negotiating team that negotiated keen-sensed with the JUNT team. The message here was been the same…the student's education time SHOULD NOT be a negotiating tool.

At the heart of this transformation are key initiatives, including the Itz'at STEAM Academy, the Education Upliftment Project, the National Healthy Start Feeding Programme, the Teacher Learning Institute, and digital tools such as the Belize Education Management Information System (BEMIS) and the Education GIS Data Hub. These programs are not isolated efforts—they are part of a long-term strategy tied to the Four Pillars of the Belize Education Sector Plan, consistent with the Medium-Term Development Strategy 2022–2026 and guided by the national vision of #PlanBelize.

planBelize Access

Legislative reform is underway to modernize education laws, councils, and regulations, with a focus on improving governance and accountability. Already, changes to the compulsory school age to 16 have yielded measurable results: primary and secondary repetition rates are half what it was in 2021, and dropout rates are down two-thirds. These successes underscore the government's mission to ensure every child can complete their education.

Access remains central to the government's agenda. Through the Education Upliftment Project, launched in 2022, free secondary education has expanded dramatically. By the 2025/2026 academic year, 23 secondary schools will be enrolled, supporting more than 12,000 students—a 1,000% increase in just three years. This represents direct relief for more than 8,000 families, with new beneficiaries set to include Independence High School and Sacred Heart College. The benefits that these school will have are bound to be immeasurably positive.

Innovation in Learning and Teaching

The National Curriculum Framework has been rolled out across all levels, shifting classrooms toward competency-based learning and modern assessments. Digital transformation is another priority. The Connect-Ed Program has already delivered high-speed internet to three-quarters of students and teachers nationwide. In 2025/2026, 70 additional schools will come online, further widening access to digital resources.

Support for teachers is also central. Beyond fully covering salaries and benefits for secondary and tertiary educators, the Ministry is offering new scholarships for in-service and pre-service teachers, with special incentives for those serving in rural communities.

Feeding, Transporting, and Supporting Students

The National Healthy Start Feeding Programme continues to expand, with nearly 15,000 students expected to benefit from daily meals in the coming school year. Transportation, another key barrier to access, is heavily subsidized, with over 246 bus runs ensuring safe, affordable travel for 13,000 students. This service costs over $1 million monthly, but the government sees it as an essential investment in equity.

STEM, TVET, and Skills for the Future

Belize's first STEAM high school, Itz'at STEAM Academy, remains a flagship for innovation. Plans are in motion to expand STEAM access nationwide through "Maker Labs" in other schools and six regional STEAM pavilions. Meanwhile, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector is being revitalized with the establishment of a National Training Agency and a dedicated TVET Act to align workforce skills with national development goals.

Financial Assistance and Inclusion

Over $14 million in grants and scholarships were provided in 2024/2025. To enhance transparency, the Ministry will soon launch the Financial Assistance Submission and Tracking (FAST) platform. Inclusion remains a guiding principle, with diagnostic programs, therapeutic services, and teacher training expanding to support children with special education needs.

As schools reopen, the Ministry of Education stands firm in its pledge: to deliver MoRE reform, MoRE access, and MoRE opportunity to every Belizean child. These efforts are more than policies—they are investments in the nation's human capital and the future of Belize itself.

And as we celebrate our 44th year of independence under the theme "Belize@44 – Stronger Together, Rising Forever," education remains at the center of that rise—lifting students, families, and the nation to new heights.

We're Hiring

Position: Marine Biologist
Location: San Pedro Town

Duties & Responsibilities

- Responsible to coordinate the ecological data collecting and analysis for Hol Chan Marine Reserve.
- Responsible for the analysis of coral reef, seagrass, mangrove and sea turtle monitoring data and preparation of reports, including presentation in national and international forums.
- Responsible to organizes quick response monitoring programs to respond to emergency situations, such as coral bleaching events, die-off, etc.
- Responsible to provide information as required for displays and educational programs and supports in the interpretation of technical data to facilitate dissemination and understanding.
- Propose new research which may be required to improve the monitoring of management effectiveness of HCMR.
- Advocate for and support joint monitoring and data exchange among MPAs as part of a mutually beneficial collaborative effort in support of a broad Knowledge Management approach both nationally and internationally.

Requirements

Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Marine Biology or Natural Resources Management or related field.

Must be able to successfully oversee multiple projects.

Must be able to create timelines, manage a budget and ensure timely completion of identified program and technical goals and objective.

Must be SCUBA certified

knowledgeable in Marine Protected Areas management and able to work around barriers to achieve programmatic goals.

Strong technical writing skills and experience in data management

To apply

Please submit the following addressed to Human Resources at info@holchanmarinereserve.org or drop off at our office on Caribena Street.

1. Application letter
2. Resume
3. 2 recommendation letters
4. Copy of certificates
5. Copy of Social Security Card
6. Copy of police record

Deadline to submit application is Friday, September 5th 2025 at 5:00 pm

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

DIGITAL SUPPLIER'S TOOL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize
Process ID: BL-L1040 – P00033
Deadline: **September 15, 2025**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize (TIFP).

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant as a **"Digital Supplier's Tool Development Consultant".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individual to access the full version of this request for application online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-4106
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Digital Supplier's Tool Development Consultant (BL-L1040)** - Your name

BY ORDER OF CHARGEE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED a statutory body formed and registered under the Credit Union Act, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, and whose registered office is situated at No. 1 Hyde's Lane, Belize City, Belize District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Chargee under and by virtue of a Charge registered at the Land Registry between ERROL S. WHITE of the one part and HRCU of the other part.

HRCU will at the expiration of three months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property described in the Schedule below.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

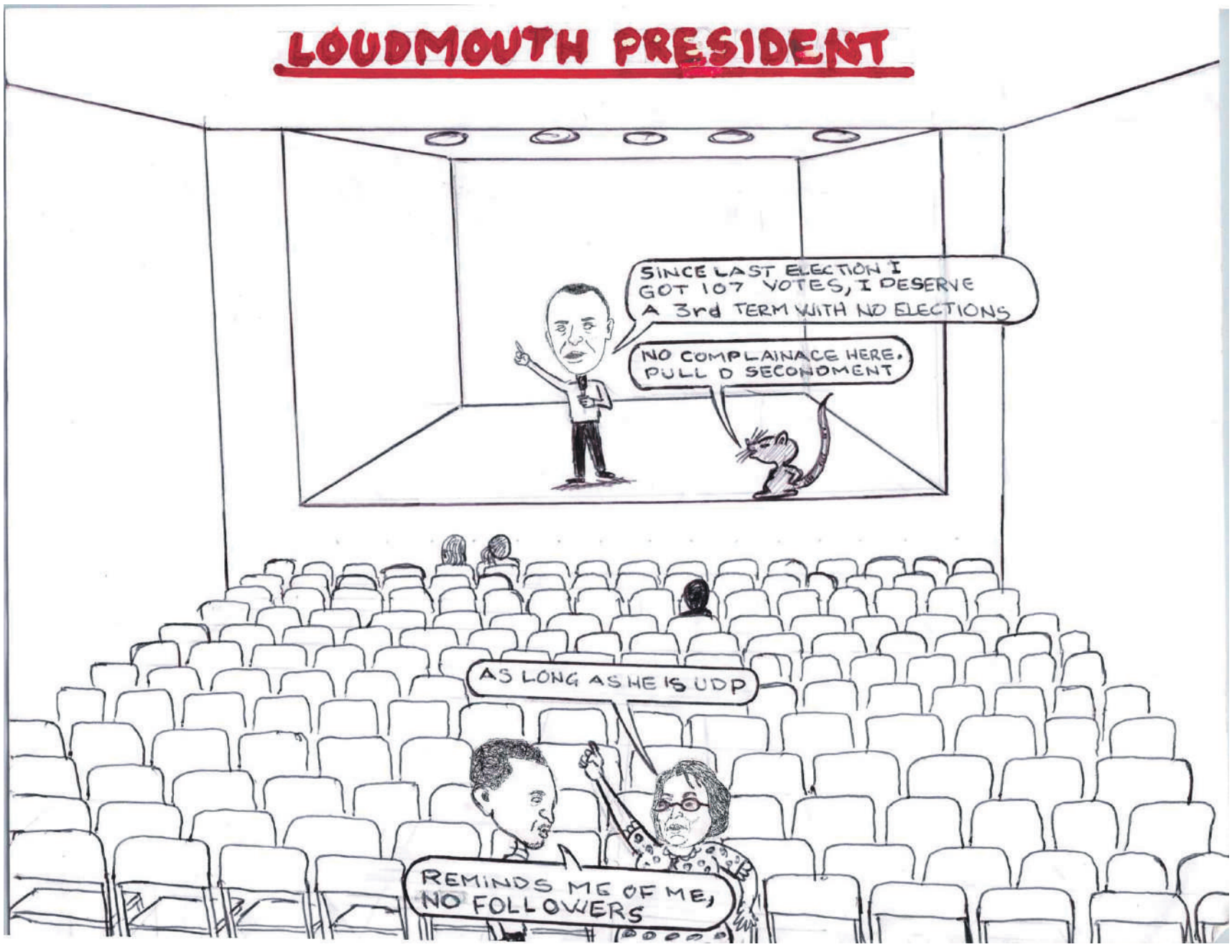
SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 337.60 square yards being Parcel 8, Block 45 in the St. Martin De Porres Registration Section TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of ERROL S. WHITE

DATED this 18th day of August 2025

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE
Phone: (501) 280-5644
Fax: (501) 223-0738
E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/

CARTOON


LOUDMOUTH PRESIDENT
SINCE LAST ELECTION I GOT 107 VOTES, I DESERVE A 3rd TERM WITH NO ELECTIONS
NO COMPLAINACE HERE. PULL D SECONDMENT
AS LONG AS HE IS UDP
REMINDS ME OF ME, NO FOLLOWERS

4th Annual National Climate Week

Keynote Address

Prime Minister John Briceño

OPENING CEREMONY

Caribbean Motors Show Room, Belize City, Belize

25th August 2025

Your Excellency, Mrs. Froyla Tzalam, Governor General of Belize,
Honorable Ministers of Cabinet, Members of the National Assembly,
Mrs. Edalmi Pinelo, Chief Climate Change Officer, National Climate Change Office
Distinguished Ambassadors and High Commissioners,
Heads of International and Regional Organizations,
Invited Guests, distinguished guests, youth leaders, development partners, and fellow Belizeans.

Good morning.

Today, I'm pleased to join you for the opening of Belize's Fourth National Climate Week, a week highlighting Belize's climate leadership and our collective pursuit of a more resilient, sustainable Belize.

This week, under the theme "Adapting today, sustaining tomorrow – resilient roots, greener future," we affirm what we know to be true: that small nations can lead with bold ideas, transformative policies, and unwavering resolve.

Over the past year, Belize has taken historic steps to position itself as a leader in global climate diplomacy. As one of only two nations in the Caribbean thus far, Belize submitted our enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution—NDC 3.0—a blueprint that charts our climate ambitions through 2035. A roadmap for a low-carbon, climate-resilient Belize, our national commitment, our promise to future generations.

Belize's climate ambition is matched by tangible progress on the ground. Our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commits to reducing emissions by 35% below business-as-usual levels by 2030, charting a clear path toward carbon neutrality by 2050. We are accelerating the deployment of renewable energy, modernizing transportation, and scaling up sustainable forest management. Just recently, Belize turned up the power toward a greener future: Belize Electricity Limited made history by signing a groundbreaking agreement for the country's very first utility-scale solar power plant. These efforts are about more than just infrastructure and technology—they aim to secure energy independence, create meaningful green jobs, and lay the foundation for an economy that serves both people and planet.

Our commitment to adaptation is equally strong. We are implementing climate-smart agricultural practices, protecting vital coastal ecosystems, and building resilient infrastructure to withstand the climate challenges ahead. For example, the recently approved and now operational BAC_SUF project has mobilized $38.84 million to build the adaptive capacity and resilience of Belize's sugarcane industry. This initiative not only strengthens the livelihoods of thousands of farmers but also ensures food security and supports rural communities. Through projects like BAC_SUF, we are directly improving lives and supporting inclusive economic growth.

But ambition alone is not enough. Delivering on these commitments requires robust systems and innovative financing. That is why Belize is advancing the Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiatives Bill—pioneering legislation that will provide the legal and institutional framework to access international climate finance and fully participate in carbon markets. These reforms position Belize to attract new investment, accelerate project implementation, and set a model for regional climate leadership. In short, through committed action, successful project implementation, historic investments in renewable energy like our first utility-scale solar power plant, and strategic legislation, Belize is demonstrating that climate resilience can deliver real benefits for our people—today, and for generations to come.

This bill will do more than unlock new funding, it will create incentives for private sector innovation, catalyze clean technology adoption, and ensure our actions deliver measurable impact for Belizeans. Our forests, marine ecosystems, and renewable energy projects will become not only symbols of stewardship, but engines of sustainable growth.

In demonstrating our commitment to mobilize climate finance through partnership with the private sector, I am proud to share that our Development Finance Corporation has achieved accreditation to

the Green Climate Fund—a major milestone that empowers Belizean institutions to directly access climate finance. This achievement is a vote of confidence in our national systems and marks a crucial step toward faster, more responsive delivery of support for the communities that need it most.

Yet, we must be realistic about the scale of the challenge before us. The global climate finance gap is staggering—in Belize alone, current analyses show that the cost of implementing our national climate goals far exceeds the volume of public funds and concessional finance available. Despite successes in mobilizing resources, the pipeline for bankable projects often suffers from insufficient private investment, high perceived risks, a lack of readily available de-risking instruments, and gaps in local financial expertise. As a result, too many transformative initiatives remain on the drawing board rather than being implemented in the field.

Public finance alone will not suffice. Private sector engagement is not optional—it is essential. We need bold, innovative partnerships to unlock new sources of capital, harness technological expertise, and drive scalable climate solutions.

To our private sector partners present today: the climate transition is the greatest economic opportunity of our generation. Demand for clean energy, sustainably produced goods, and nature-based solutions is rising globally. Belize is working to create the enabling environment for you to invest in this future—through financial incentives, policy reforms, new legislation, and blended finance mechanisms. We recognize the real and perceived barriers, and we are committed to working with you to overcome them, reduce investment risks, and expand market opportunities. The time to lead is now—to close the finance gap and build a resilient, prosperous Belize for all.

To our young people, your presence is essential. You have led the way through your community based engagements - your creativity and determination. This government will continue to ensure your voice is heard, your ideas supported, and your leadership embraced.

Over the past three years, Climate Week has grown into a dynamic platform for awareness, action, and inclusion. It reflects our belief that climate resilience must be rooted in local knowledge, community leadership, and intergenerational partnership. From cultural performances to sector showcases, from youth panels to policy forums, this week brings together the full force of Belizean society in service of our climate goals.

As we look ahead to COP30 and other global milestones, Belize stands ready to demonstrate what leadership looks like: grounded in transparency, driven by ambition, and focused on solutions. We do not see a contradiction between environmental protection and economic development, we see alignment. We see opportunity.

The true success of this week will not be measured in speeches or sessions, but in the lives we impact: the farmers who adopt climate-smart practices, the youth who launch green businesses, the communities that are more resilient, and more sustainable, and the partnerships we forge which endure beyond this week. This is what "resilient roots and a greener future" means.

So, as we embark on this week of learning, dialogue, and action, I call on all sectors—public, private, civil society, academia, and communities—to work together with the urgency this moment demands. Climate resilience is survival and also all about transformation.

Together, let us turn our ambitions into action, our challenges into opportunities, and our vision into reality.

Let us make it count!

Thank you—and may this week inspire actions that endure far beyond these five days, shaping a brighter, more resilient Belize for generations to come.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: VEHICLES

Belize City, Belize District; Belmopan, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.

2008 Ford Escape 2009 Nissan Rogue

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Consejo, Corozal District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these vehicles are sold.

1. **Parcel No. 1123 Near Mile 1, Consejo Road, Corozal District:**

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Consejo	1	1123
The freehold property of Mr. Carlos Adolfo Orio		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: Belize Auctions

MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, GOVERNANCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

First Floor – North Wing
Sir Edney Cain Building, City of Belmopan, Belize
Telephone: 501-822-2204, 2205, 3765 Facsimile: 501-822-2206
Email: sec@mps.gov.bz Website: www.governmentofbelize.gov.bz

August 14, 2025

INVITATION TO QUOTE
N0. 001/25

The Ministry of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management through the National Emergency Management Organization requests quotation for humanitarian supplies. The Ministry now extends an invitation to Suppliers to tender for the below listed items:

Lot 1

Food and Water	Quantity
Emergency Humanitarian Food Packages	8,000 Packages
Purified Water in Plastic bottles	14,000 gallons

Lot 2

Hygiene Goods	Quantity
Hygiene Kits	1, 000 Packages

Lot 3

Cleaning Supplies	Quantity
Plastic Buckets	1, 000
Household Brooms	1, 000
Floor Mops	1, 000
Powder Laundry Soap	9, 000

Lot 4.

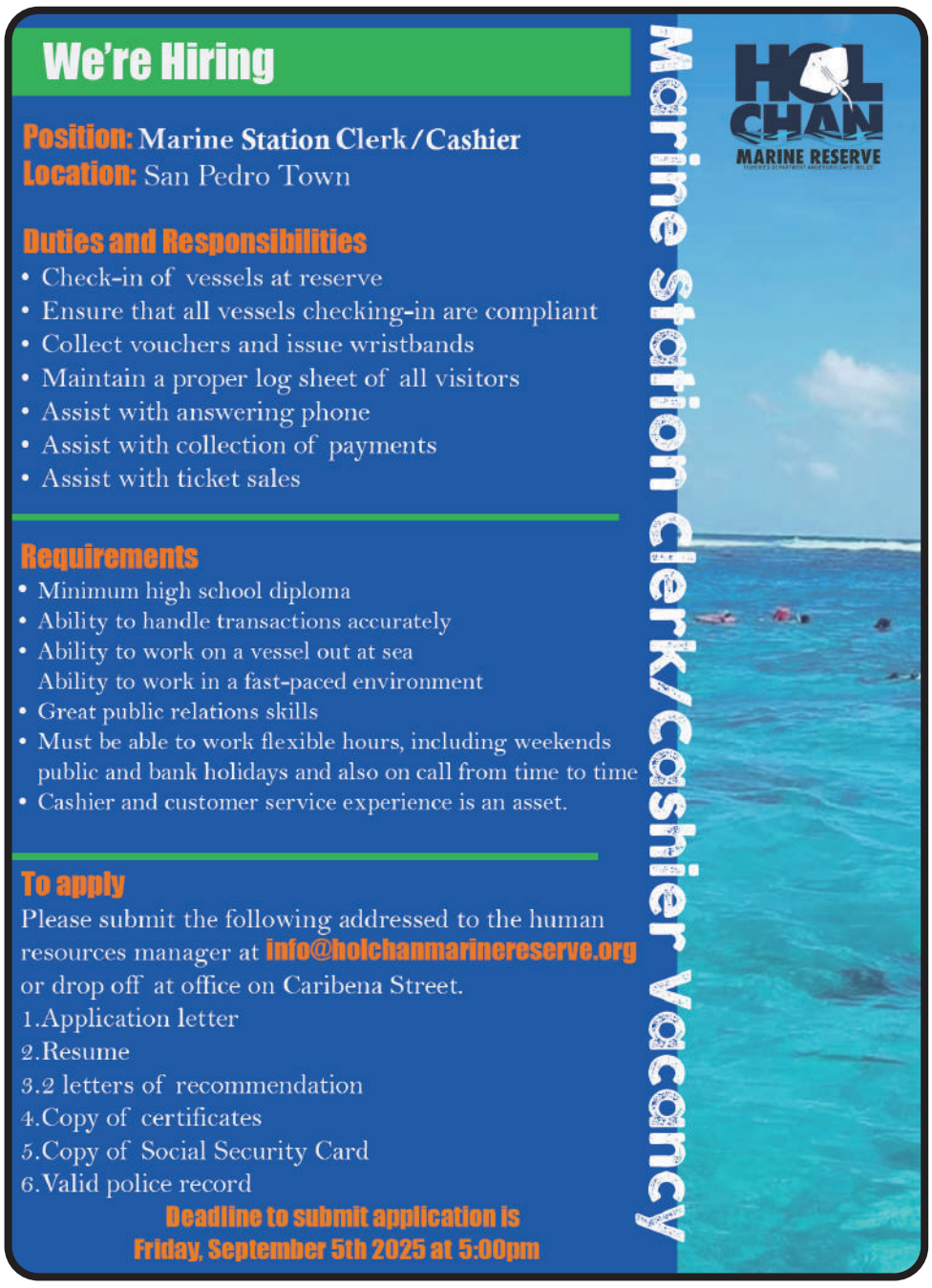
Non- Food Items (NFIs)	Quantity
Foam Mattress – single	120
Foam Mattress – Double	300

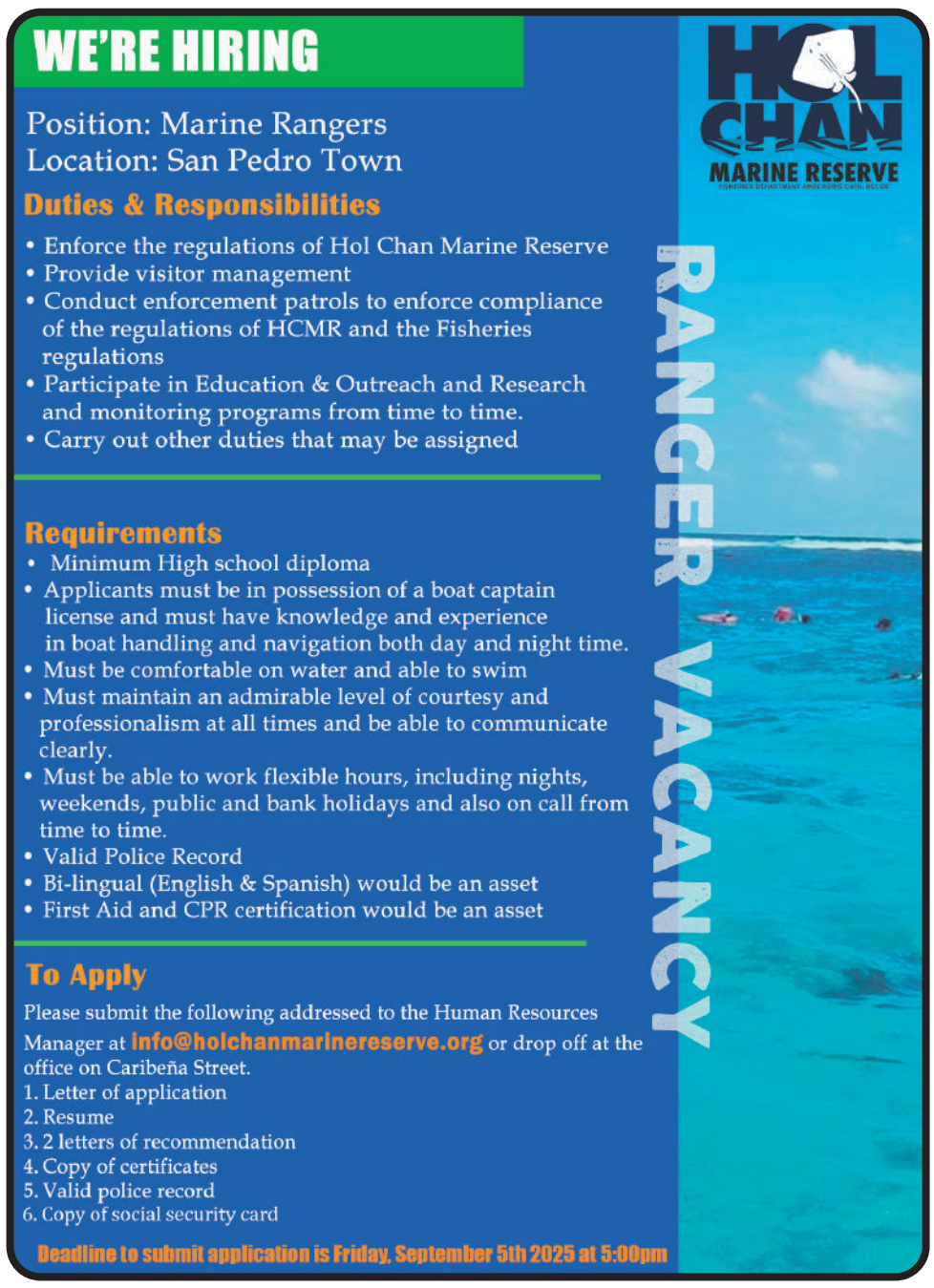
Interested Bidders may submit a complete set of bidding documents to the following physical address. Bids must also include a copy of **Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Companies Registry, the Belize Tax Service and the Belize Social Security Board**. Kindly see full procurement notice including Specifications at https://

The deadline for submission of sealed bids is Friday August 29th, 2025 at 12:00 noon, via direct mail or hand delivered to the address indicated below:

National Emergency Coordinator
Headquarters, National Emergency Management Organization
Melhado Parade
Belmopan
Ref: INVITATION TO QUOTE (No NEMO 001/25)

Note that late submissions will be rejected.


We're Hiring
Position: Marine Station Clerk/Cashier
Location: San Pedro Town
Duties and Responsibilities
• Check-in of vessels at reserve
• Ensure that all vessels checking-in are compliant
• Collect vouchers and issue wristbands
• Maintain a proper log sheet of all visitors
• Assist with answering phone
• Assist with collection of payments
• Assist with ticket sales
Requirements
• Minimum high school diploma
• Ability to handle transactions accurately
• Ability to work on a vessel out at sea
Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
• Great public relations skills
• Must be able to work flexible hours, including weekends public and bank holidays and also on call from time to time
• Cashier and customer service experience is an asset.
To apply
Please submit the following addressed to the human resources manager at info@holchanmarinereserve.org or drop off at office on Caribena Street.
1.Application letter
2.Resume
3.2 letters of recommendation
4.Copy of certificates
5.Copy of Social Security Card
6.Valid police record
Deadline to submit application is Friday, September 5th 2025 at 5:00pm
Marine station clerk/cashier vacancy
HOL CHAN
MARINE RESERVE


WE'RE HIRING
Position: Marine Rangers
Location: San Pedro Town
Duties & Responsibilities
• Enforce the regulations of Hol Chan Marine Reserve
• Provide visitor management
• Conduct enforcement patrols to enforce compliance of the regulations of HCMR and the Fisheries regulations
• Participate in Education & Outreach and Research and monitoring programs from time to time.
• Carry out other duties that may be assigned
Requirements
• Minimum High school diploma
• Applicants must be in possession of a boat captain license and must have knowledge and experience in boat handling and navigation both day and night time.
• Must be comfortable on water and able to swim
• Must maintain an admirable level of courtesy and professionalism at all times and be able to communicate clearly.
• Must be able to work flexible hours, including nights, weekends, public and bank holidays and also on call from time to time.
• Valid Police Record
• Bi-lingual (English & Spanish) would be an asset
• First Aid and CPR certification would be an asset
To Apply
Please submit the following addressed to the Human Resources Manager at info@holchanmarinereserve.org or drop off at the office on Caribeña Street.
1. Letter of application
2. Resume
3. 2 letters of recommendation
4. Copy of certificates
5. Valid police record
6. Copy of social security card
Deadline to submit application is Friday, September 5th 2025 at 5:00pm
RANGER VACANCY
HOL CHAN
MARINE RESERVE

New Police HQ for Belmopan

"…set the tone for the rest of the country" – Min. Kareem Musa

Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, Kareem Musa, continued his tour of police stations and substations in the Cayo District this week, reaffirming the ministry's commitment to modern policing, officer welfare, and long-overdue infrastructure upgrades.

The minister was joined by Chief Executive Officer Sharole Carr, Commissioner of Police Dr. Richard Rosado, and Deputy Commissioners. Together, they visited multiple sites and engaged directly with officers on operational issues and community safety needs.

The highlight of the visit was the announcement that a new Police Headquarters will be constructed in Belmopan City on the grounds of the Police Training School. The project will be funded through the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and is intended to centralize command operations and elevate the national policing standard.

"This facility in the capital will set the tone for the rest of the country. It reflects our priority to give the department the infrastructure it needs to function at a national level," Musa said.

During the visit, Musa addressed a longstanding concern voiced by many officers as there has been a lack of promotions for those who have served over fifteen years. He acknowledged the issue and committed to resolving the backlog in recognition of service and performance.

Officers were reminded of several active support programs, including:

* Access to the Police Commissary for duty-free grocery purchases

* Counseling and mental health services at the Lotus Center

Land access for first-time applicants within the department

"These support systems are part of our duty to take care of the men and women who serve this nation," Musa stated. Minister Musa noted that several police stations are slated for construction and renovation across the country. He added that procurement of office equipment, communications tools, and other operational resources remains a priority for the ministry.

Mobility challenges, especially in more remote areas of the district, were raised by officers. Many reported limited access to functioning motorcycles and vehicles. The minister assured them that repairs and new acquisitions would be addressed as financial resources become available.

Officers also shared local crime trends and the evolving social dynamics of the Cayo region. The Minister emphasized the importance of building strong relationships between officers and residents and encouraged continuous community engagement.

"This visit is part of a much larger effort across Belize, ensuring that the force is better equipped in the communities our officers serve," he said.

The Cayo District tour is part of the Ministry's national initiative to modernize policing, improve officer welfare, and deliver lasting improvements in safety and public service. (release)

New Digital Connect Center in PG

The University of Belize (UB) Punta Gorda Campus is now home to a fully-equipped Digital Connect Center, providing students and community members with access to modern computers, high-speed internet, training space, and on-site support.

This initiative, launched through a partnership between the Ministry of E-Governance and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supports UB's ongoing efforts to expand digital access and marks a highlight of its 25th Anniversary celebrations.

The campus also inaugurated the Stanley Nicholas Conference Hall,

honoring Mr. Nicholas's pivotal role in establishing and developing the UB Toledo Campus.(post)

This is a continuing effort of the government to take technology and the internet to as wide a population as possible. The country benefits when one more person has greater access.

FI WE BOLEDO
BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi WE Boledo!
SPENDING UP MI
JACKPOT!
SEARCH YOUR DREAM, MAKE IT YOURS
F O O D H O U S E M N O P
U V A C A T I O N P Q R S
R I P H O N E R S T U V W
N S H O E S V W X Y Z A B
I J E W E L R Y A B C D E
T L A N D D E F G H I J K
U P A R T Y J K L M N O P
R C A R W P Q R S T U V W
E G O L D S H O P P I N G
BUY IT. WIN IT. SPEND IT!
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE TICKET

Announcement

Ministry of Transportation

Amendments to Wide-Load Permits

Belmopan, August 26, 2025.

The Department of Transport (DoT) advises all persons who currently hold valid permits for the transportation of wide-loads to visit the Department of Transport headquarters in Belmopan for an amendment to their existing permits.

Permit holders are kindly asked to present their original wide-load permits along with the official receipts. The Department will prepare an updated permit reflecting the revised conditions in line with the recent press release aimed at improving road safety and minimizing traffic disruptions.

This amendment process ensures that all wide-load movements, including the transportation of houses and oversized structures, are conducted in accordance with the updated regulations, which restrict such movements to the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily.

The Department of Transport remains committed to safeguarding all road users and ensuring the smooth flow of traffic nationwide. Compliance with these updated permit conditions is mandatory. Failure to comply may result in enforcement actions, including fines, suspension of permits, and vehicle impoundment.)

NMP
NORTHERN MEDICAL PLAZA

NORTHERN MEDICAL SPECIALTY PLAZA

ORCHID DRIVE, B.S.I. AREA,
ORANGE WALK TOWN, BELIZE
PHONE: 302-3708

Northern Medical Plaza invites applications from experienced, dynamic, energetic, self-motivated and professional individuals for the following vacancy of a **Registered and Pratical Nurse**

Qualification

Valid Nurses License
Willing to work flexible hours
High level of customer services

Duties include:

Provide quality general nursing care to clients
Implement policies, procedures and protocols
Ensure compliance with nursing standards

Requirements

Ability to work well with staff and peers on a professional and personal level.
Fluent in English and Spanish both written and oral

Applications close: September 19th, 2025
Please submit application letter and three References to:
northernmedicalhrdept@gmail.com
General Manager
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza Ltd.
Orchid Drive, BSI Area
Orange Walk Town

IDB

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING FIRM)

Consultancy Service for Individual Gap Analysis of Potential Suppliers

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize, Central America
Project:	Trade and Investment Facilitation Program for Belize
Process ID:	BL-L1040 – P00016
Duration:	Six (6) Months
Deadline:	September 16, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project - Trade and Investment Facilitation Program in Belize (TIFP).

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of a Consulting Firm to undertake the **"Consultancy Service for Individual Gap Analysis of Potential Suppliers".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested firms to access the full version of this REOI online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **The Design, Testing and Commissioning of an Environmental Information System for the Department of the Environment**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable **firms** to submit proposals for the Design, Testing and Commissioning of an Environmental Information System for the Department of the Environment. This Consultancy is for a **consulting team** for a period of fifteen (15) months.

The overall objective of this consultancy is to design, develop, test, commission and maintain an Environmental Information System to meet the following specific objectives not limited to:

a. Update the 2016 situational and business process analysis to inform the system's design.
b. Utilize the updated situational and business process analysis to digitize the main functions of the DOE including the design of a secure, user-friendly web portal that enables registration and access for both public and private users.
c. Develop a communications module to facilitate automatic alerts and notifications via email and in-system messaging. Create a stakeholder contact database for communication and engagement.
d. Develop and integrate an automated invoicing module within the EIS to manage all billing related to project that have received environmental clearance.
e. Create and digitize all relevant forms.
f. Develop and deliver comprehensive training materials, including user manual for both public users and DOE administrators. Facilitate structured training sessions to ensure effective system adaptation and use by the DOE personnel and relevant stakeholders.
g. Provide a web-based administration console for system configuration and management.
h. Design and implement a centralized digital repository for secure document and data management.
i. Ensure full interoperability with existing DOE and other government.
j. Incorporate a robust Information Security Management System (ISMS) to ensure data confidentiality, integrity and availability. Key requirements include strong access controls with role-based permissions, secure data storage and transmission protocols and regular audit trails and security monitoring.

Scope of Services:

The firm shall be responsible for the full design, development, testing, commissioning, and post-implementation support of an Environmental Information System (EIS) that aligns with the Department of the Environment's operational needs and the Government of Belize's digital transformation agenda.

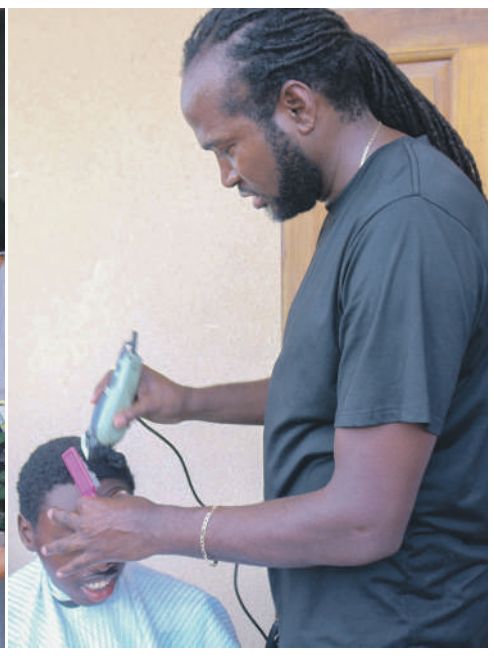
For the full Terms of Reference, which lists further scope of services, deliverables timeline, firm qualification and experience required, and Submission Procedures, kindly request via email at info@environment.gov.bz with a copy to procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: Friday, September 19th, 2025, no later than 10:00 a.m.

Kids Fest!

Fort George's Back to School A Fresh Start

Hon. Henry Charles Usher: "I had the pleasure of hosting Fort George's Back to School Fresh Start Kids Fest alongside the Fort George PUP Executive Committee for all the children of our Constituency. It was a day filled with music, snacks, laughter, and joy as we came together to give our kids a strong start to the new school year.



Every child walked away with a backpack and school supplies, plus the boys got a fresh haircut, and the girls a stylish hairdo —ready to step into the classroom with confidence!

The smiles said it all. And, a special congratulation to the lucky winners who went home with a bicycle, a tablet, or a computer!

Thank you to the hair braiders and barbers including celebrity barber, Councillor Dorian Usher!

Fort George, let's continue lifting up our children—because when they succeed, we all succeed.

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
Always 'bout The People
HEALTH
Clinic
A collaboration between Hon. Henry Charles Usher, the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Belize City Council
GET YOUR FREE HEALTH CHECK UP!
• Blood Pressure Check
• Blood Glucose Check
• Health Counselling
• Dietary Counselling
FREE CHECK UP
Saturday, August 30th, 2025
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Fort George Constituency Office
corner of Gabourel Ln. and Queen St.

vamos bien

PlanBelize 2.0

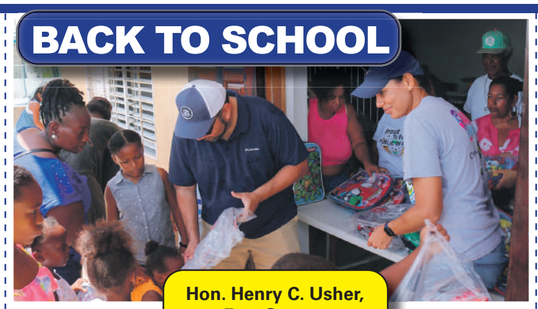
right on track

Prime Minister John Briceño OW Central

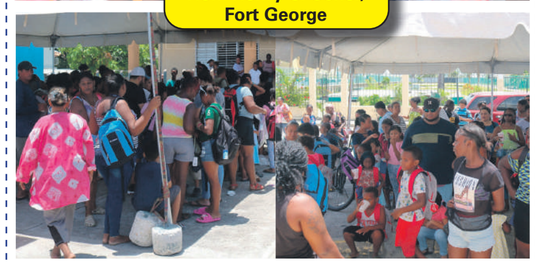
Courtesy visit by Queen of the Bay delegates

As usual, collaborating w/ the OW Town Council works

BACK TO SCHOOL



Hon. Henry C. Usher, Fort George



Corozal Town Council (multiple streets upgraded)

Mayor Rigo Vellos & Councillor Otoniel Riveroll monitoring grading work on 8th Street North

Mayor Rigo Vellos reading "Caps for Sale" children's story during the Reading program

Special Envoy HE Rossana Briceño

Participating in a Families Bill consultation

Hon. Oscar Mira, Belmopan

Hon. Kevin Bernard, OW East

Min. Musa, CS, Home Affairs

Visiting Belmopan and announcing New Police Station

MoS. Devin Daly, Collet

In Chan Chen Showing on hand support for Youth Football

Min. Landy Habet (C SE), Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management

At Climate Change Week Opening

Min. Cordel Hyde, Natural Resources w/ Hon. Martinez in Toledo East

Empowering citizens with land

Min. Bernard, MoHW – EU – PAHO/WHO

Prepping our professionals for palliative care of our loved ones

Good Deeds Team incl. BCC DM Miller

BDF assist in construction of building at PG Methodist School

Min. Francis Fonseca, Culture

Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Safeguarding

Bridge At Corazon and Otoxha

right on track — 'Vamos Bien in 2025' — vamos bien

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

IMPRESSIVE SSB PERFORMANCE: 50 MILLION SURPLUS FOR 2024 & 2025

By Hilly Bennett

"…Social Security is but the beginning of developing the proper attitudes of responsibility for older or injured citizens, so that we become conscious of the human and social obligations, which the economy must strive to meet." **Rt. Honorable George Cadle Price, 1981 Annual Report of the Social Security Board.**

Today, the Social Security scheme remains one of the foremost components of Belize's social investment sector. It was established on June 01, 1981 and is defined as the protection given by society to its members against economic and social stress caused by the loss or substantial reduction of earnings due to various causes. It is the safety net mechanism relied on by the insured members regarding benefits ranging "From the Womb to the Tomb", from maternity benefits to funeral grants including sickness, disability and retirement benefits.

On Friday, August 22, 2025, at the Grand Resort and Residences, near the Haulover Bridge, the Social Security Board(SSB), held another of its SSB Connect Forums, since its inception on November 8, 2018. The main purpose was to interact with its valued stakeholders including employers, employees and policymakers, detailing the current status of the fund via reports on collections and expenditures of contributions and investments. This year's event provided the opportunity to announce another banner year of a 50-million-dollar surplus following a similar amount in 2024. A reality that is a far cry from the 2.6 million in collection and the recorded surplus of 2.2 million after the first year of operations. And when, SSB relied on "Time Deposits". Additionally, the institution rolled out its five-year strategic plan 2025-2029.

Responding to what contributed to the overall surplus, the Acting CEO, SSB Jerome Palma, explained to the media, that "The key contributor was the increase in the contribution rate. You would recall that there was contribution reform. And in 2024 now, the full increase to the 10%. So we saw an increase in that regard. And that was a main driver in terms of actually the surplus for the year." The collection of the contributions is the most important component of the social security scheme. The revenue collected as contributions goes to paying benefits, meeting administrative costs and capital expenditure of the Board. The surplus funds are invested in sound ventures to yield returns, allowing the Board the ability to meet future payments of benefits and to expand the level of income distribution within the economy. Ag CEO Palma also credited the improved financial position to a strong economic performance by the Briceño administration, and the increase in the minimum wage, a mandate of PlanBelize. Palma noted that the impressive performance signifies not just numbers but more so about building sustainability and giving assurance to the membership that their social security system is secure. Incidentally, Palma was mindful that over the next few years, SSB will continue to experience an increase but by 2028/2029 will be when a "period of equilibrium" will take effect and adjustments will be necessary. Palma proffered that the period of equilibrium is when benefit expenditures match the contributions and investment income. When that happens there has to be an increase in contributions. However, greater administrative efficiency and the mandate of PlanBelize 2.0 to increase the minimum wage to $6 per hour and continued economic growth can offset this scenario.

In furtherance of the forum, Ag CEO Palma, provided some highlights of the institution's strategic 5-year plan. He said *"Some of the highlights include good governance, which is essentially a starting point. Without good governance, we can't do anything else. That is one of the pillars in my first strategic priorities."* The other ones he submitted are key modernization, improvement in legislation, saying that *"We need to adjust to some of the new mediums of work that perhaps were not envisioned when the legislation was first constructed."* The improvement of service delivery utilizing technology, especially digital portal platforms, is embedded in the strategic plans.

The atmosphere at the SSB Connect Forum 2025 was one of optimism, evidently the result of the second consecutive year of a $50 million surplus realized from the Board's prudent and pragmatic management and the People's United Party (PUP) Government, the John Briceño administration's intuition and inherent responsibility for broader economic policies to be effected. This is as reported in the impressive performance at this year's SSB Connect Forum 2025.

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

CIVIL ENGINEER

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-MFEDI - CEU-481690-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **September 15, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the World Bank (WB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of a **"Civil Engineer".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at MOF – Civil Engineer – Individual Consultant – BZ-MFEDI – CEU-481690-CS-INDV-2 – MOF-2-25 - Procurement Portal or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

FINANCIAL SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460482-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **September 15, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the World Bank (WB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of a **"Financial Specialist".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at MOF – Financial Specialist – Individual Consultant – BZ-CEU-460482-CS-INDV-2 – MOF-2025 - Procurement Portal or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

CARING FOR OUR LOVED ONES

PAHO/WHO – EU, – MoHW Conduct Palliative and End-of-Life Care and Psychosocial Support Training Workshops Across Belize

August 22, 2025 – As part of the European Union (EU)-Health Sector Support Programme, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW), conducted a series of training workshops aimed at strengthening palliative and end-of-life care, including psychosocial support, across Belize.

Held across five districts, the one-day workshops brought together a diverse group of healthcare providers from the health regions, including doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, patient care assistants, and other health workers from hospitals, elderly care homes, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the wider community. The sessions focused on enhancing the capacity of primary health care teams to deliver compassionate, patient-centered care to individuals with terminal illnesses and their families.

While Belize has made significant progress in expanding access to palliative care services, gaps remain. For example, the absence of local radiotherapy services forces many patients to seek treatment abroad or across borders. Notwithstanding this, efforts such as the establishment of the Palliative Care Foundation in the Belize District and the 2018 approval of national palliative care standards, including the addition of essential palliative medicines, demonstrated ongoing commitment to improving care in the country.

These workshops were aligned with the Ministry's strategic priority to enhance care for terminally ill patients by addressing both their physical and emotional needs. In addition to equipping healthcare workers with the necessary skills to deliver care, the initiative supported efforts to improve the dignity, comfort, and quality of life for patients during end-of-life transitions, regardless of geographic location.

Through this collaborative effort, the MoHW, PAHO/WHO, and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Belize's health system and ensuring equitable access to quality palliative care services for all. (release)

MBEMC – Belize's NAP Global Network Capacity-Building Workshop

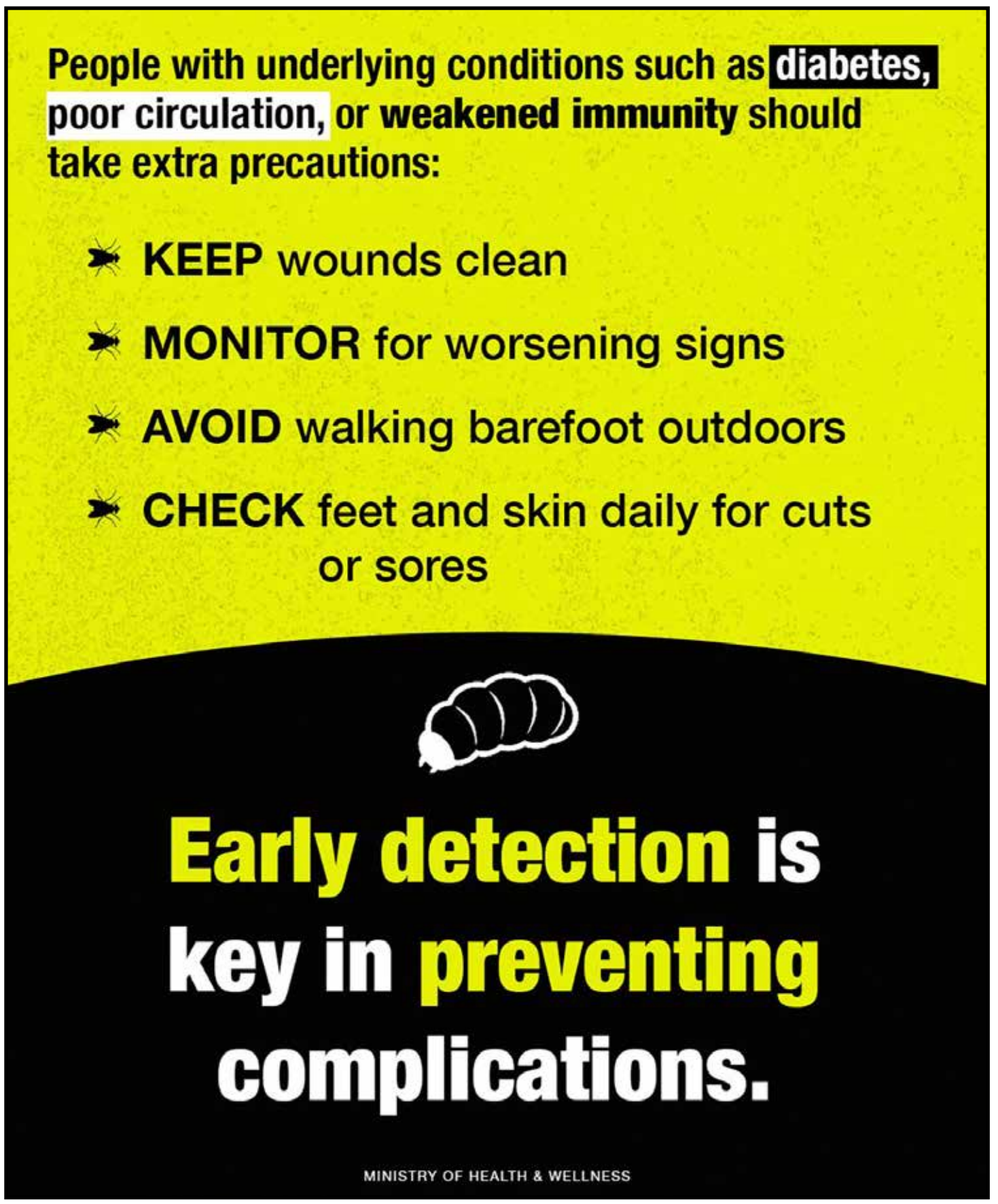
The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation (MBEMC), in collaboration with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network, hosted a two-day capacity-building workshop to advance the implementation of Belize's NAP for the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector. The training, held on August 19–20, 2025, brought together key governmental agencies engaged in marine and coastal adaptation planning.

The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for adaptation planning by providing a foundational understanding of national adaptation processes, climate change frameworks, and core adaptation concepts. Participants also gained hands-on experience with the NAP Global Network's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Toolkit, a practical resource designed to improve the tracking of progress, learning, and accountability in adaptation initiatives.

Training objectives focused on:

- Enhancing participants' understanding of key adaptation concepts relevant to the coastal and fisheries sectors.
- Introducing and applying the NAP Global Network MEL Toolkit to support monitoring, evaluation, and learning for Belize's NAP in the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector.

This workshop was facilitated by consulting group Advisors Next Door, whose expertise will strengthen Belize's capacity for effective climate adaptation in the coastal and fisheries sector. (release)


People with underlying conditions such as diabetes, poor circulation, or weakened immunity should take extra precautions:
KEEP wounds clean
MONITOR for worsening signs
AVOID walking barefoot outdoors
CHECK feet and skin daily for cuts or sores
Early detection is key in preventing complications.
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

Appointment

Senior Council Melissa Balderamos-Mahler

Temporary Justice for The Court of Appeal

Senior Counsel, Melissa Balderamos-Mahler, has been appointed as a Temporary Justice of the Appellate Division. The appointment begins on September 1 and continues through October 31. Senior Counsel, Balderamos-Mahler will succeed the Guyanese Jurist Arif Bulkan who has been selected by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission to serve on the Caribbean Court of Justice as a judge.

Earlier this year, Chief Justice Hon. Mde. Louise Esther Blenman elevated Attorneys-at-Law, Mrs. Melissa Balderamos-Mahler along with Mrs. Ashanti Arthurs-Martin, Ms. Pricilla Jennifer Banner and Hon Anthony Sylvestre, prominent attorneys to Senior Counsel. They were elevated in recognition of their outstanding contributions to jurisprudence and the law, along with their professionalism and integrity.

However, there are those individuals, including Jules the Screwworm, who are questioning the appointment. Jules' first issue is that although she is a respected attorney, she is the wife of sitting minister Anthony Mahler. His second issue is that the position was not advertised and there could be the possibility of a conflict of interest. Regarding the position not being advertised, AG Anthony Sylvestre asserted in an interview that *"The selection was for a short temporary appointment and thus there was not a public advertisement."* The insinuation that being married to a sitting minister is pure hogwash which implies that although the individual is highly qualified she should not be allowed to serve as a jurist of the appellate court.

The appointment of Mrs. Melissa Balderamos-Mahler is considered a significant milestone in the Justice's extensive legal career. She is more than qualified. She has integrity, she is fair, she is fearless, and a woman. Maybe, just maybe, women are less intelligent in Jules' eyes.

This appointment is indicative of inclusivity, progress, and professionalism within Belize's judiciary. Congratulations from the Belize Times and Vibes Media to Justice Melissa Balderamos-Mahler.

Nutritional Support for People Living with HIV

Landmark Agreement Signed

August 21, 2025 - The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) and the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs, with support from the National AIDS Commission (NAC), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide nutritional support to People Living with HIV (PLHIV) across Belize.

Running from July 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, the agreement underscores the Government's commitment to a holistic HIV response that addresses not only medical care but also the socio-economic and nutritional needs of PLHIV.

Through this partnership, MET will disburse BZ$108,000 to the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs, which will deliver monthly food packages valued at BZ$300 to thirty PLHIV beneficiaries, while linking them to wider social protection programs. Civil society partners, GoJoven Belize Alum Association and Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) will identify beneficiaries and provide case management support. Oversight will be coordinated by NAC through a joint working committee.

The MOU is valid for one year, with the intention to extend for up to two additional years as Belize continues to strengthen its national HIV response through sustainable, people-centred initiatives. (release)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460475-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **September 15, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from World Bank (WB) for the execution of the Project**: "**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project".

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage contractual services of a **"Procurement Specialist".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at MOF – Procurement Specialist – Individual Consultant – BZ-CEU-460475-CS-INDV-2 – MOF-2025 - Procurement Portal or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106'
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Libertad Village, Corozal District; San Estevan, Orange Walk District; San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo andChristiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel No. 666 Libertad Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Libertad Village	1	666
The Freehold property of Mr. Reginald Diego.		

2. Parcel No. 292 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Estevan	1	292
The freehold property of Ms. Francisca Palomo.		

3. Vehicle:

2010 Black Chevy Equinox

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Takayuki Yanai** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Taka Kitchen"** located at # 214 Hutson Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Prakash Singh Ram Singh Bist** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"OM Indian Restaurant"** located at # 148 A Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhongyuan Mo** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"New Asia Restaurant"** located at # 15 Vernon Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Li Huo Huang** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Blvd. Store"** located at # 4265 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hitesh G. Vimlani** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"LG Super Store"** located on Faber's Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ariola F. Morales** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"K & R Fruit & Vegetable Shop"** located at # 8556 Curl Thompson St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **WASCO Company Ltd.** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"WASCO Company Ltd."** located at # 26 South Creek, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Julio Ardon/Mariela Mejia** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Pool Passion Chill Spot"** located at # 96 Park Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Francisca Avila** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"200 COPAS"** located at # 148 Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Proper Electricity
Hon. Gilroy Usher in Port Loyola Leads the way in Neal Pen Rd. ext.

On Monday August 25 afternoon, Hon Gilroy Usher, Area Representative for Port Loyola/Minister of State for Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics, with a number residents of Pen Rd Ext. in the division gave Deon Kelly Energy Officer with the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics a tour of Neal Pen Rd Ext.

The visit was to enable Mr. Kelly to prepare a report for the Ministry and BEL on the urgent need for proper supply of electricity to over 30 homes in the area, after decades without the service.

In the absence of proper access to the electrical grid a number of residents rely on a supply of electricity that is dangerous with unsuitable wires and unsafe connections on trees, fences, and very low to the ground. The dangerous network of live wires has resulted in loss of homes due to fires. The danger is increased tremendously in the rainy season with constant injury to both residents and animals due to electric shock when electricity and water meet.

New World Screwworm

is dangerous to humans and animals.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
Equal Health for All

Keep wounds clean and covered.
Seek medical help for unusual pain, swelling, or if you feel or see moving larvae (worms).

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs Hosts

Opening of Disability Act Training

August 21, 2025 - The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus Belize, hosted the Introduction to the Belize Disability Act Training Course on August 21, 2025. The training marks a significant step in advancing the implementation of the Belize Disabilities Act, passed in 2024, which guarantees equal rights, protections, and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The opening ceremony began with welcome remarks from Mr. Marshall Nunez, Disabilities Desk Coordinator, who highlighted the Ministry's ongoing commitment to building an inclusive society. Mr. Nunez reflected on the transformative impact of the Belize Disabilities Act and walked the participants through its stages of development from vision to implementation.

In her address, Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez, CEO of the Ministry, emphasized that the Act represents Belize's pledge to ensure dignity, equal participation, and full protection for persons with disabilities. She also stressed the importance of education as a bridge between policy and practice, equipping participants to translate the law into meaningful action.

Dr. Sharmayne Saunders of UWI introduced the program and outlined the profiles of the facilitators. She welcomed the opportunity for partnership in building a community of champions for inclusive development. Facilitators Shantell Yearwood and Delvitt Samuels provided an overview of the training structure, which includes an examination of disability rights, responsibilities, and challenges, as outlined in the Belize Disabilities Act.

The one-day training aims to build awareness and capacity among professionals across various sectors, including health, education, social services, law enforcement, and civil society, so that they can effectively interpret, apply, and advocate for disability rights.

The Ministry reaffirms its leadership in fostering inclusion, equality, and protection for all Belizeans. The training is part of broader national efforts to establish the Disabilities Commission, develop a Disabilities Registry, and strengthen institutional support for persons with disabilities.

The Belize Tourism Board hosts

Panama & Guatemala Roadshow

The Belize Tourism Board is proud to host the Panama & Guatemala Roadshow taking place on August 27–28, 2025!

This key trade event brings together top tour operators, travel agents, and media in both cities for breakfast presentations, speed-networking sessions, and mini tradeshows. By hosting this roadshow, Belize is strengthening its visibility in two important regional markets where connectivity and cultural ties play a vital role in attracting more travelers.

Events like these are essential for building new partnerships, nurturing existing relationships, and positioning Belize as the preferred destination for Central American travelers seeking unique, authentic experiences. (post)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
SERVICES
Cleaning and Maintenance Services - Belize Tax Service Offices

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD)
Country: BELIZE
Deadline: September 5th, 2025 at 4:30 pm Local Belize time

The Belize Tax Service Department is seeking expressions of interest from eligible companies for the cleaning and maintenance services at Belize City headquarters. Sanitization and cleaning of the office is essential to provide a safe and healthy environment for the BTSD personnel and the public.

Period: For a period of two (2) year (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2027)

To maintain a clean and healthy working environment at the BTSD at Eleanor Hall Building and compound on Lake I Boulevard in Belize City, Belize.

The main responsibility of company includes but are not limited to the following:

(a) Cleaning of office spaces, cafeteria, kitchenettes, office furniture, equipment and conference facilities along with respective fixtures.
(b) Cleaning of all bathrooms and their fixtures.
(c) Cleaning of the stairways, corridors and foyer area, railings and doors.
(d) Cleaning of all internal glass walls and windows.
(e) Garbage disposal.
(f) Cleaning supplies – Belize Tax Service will be responsible for wash cloth, hand towels, toilet paper, dishwashing liquid, hand soap & disinfectant.

- Your Company will provide all necessary tools, cleaning materials, additional cleaning supplies such as bleach etc, equipment/machinery, labour, transportation for the performance of the service.

Qualification of the Company:

(a) Have a minimum of three (3) years working experience in Government offices.
(b) Cleaning and maintenance or similar type work experience of at least five (5) years is required.
(c) Experience working in the public and private sector in similar assignment.

Skills, Abilities and Knowledge:

- Excellent written and communication skills in English and Spanish.
- The ability to solve problems in a timely fashion.
- Organizing a work team with hands-on experience.
- Good public relations, organizational, coordination and networking skills required.
- Honesty, integrity, and respect.
- Demonstrate daily monitoring of on-site workers.

Expression of Interest package should contain:

(i) Cover letter briefly explaining interest, experience, and competence of the Company.
(ii) Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, types of activities performed and location of the assignment.*
(iii) List of at least two references
(iv) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality

Additional documentation required for National Consultants:

(i) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from Belize Company Registry
(ii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Social Security Board
(iii) Copy of Certificate of Good Standing from the Belize Tax Service
(iv) Copy of Current Trade License

Interested Contractors may obtain further information at the address below during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Local Belize Time, Monday to Thursday and 8:00 am -4:30 pm on Friday.

Qualified Contractors must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to **Michelle.Longsworth@bts.gov.bz** no later than September 5th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. Local Belize Time **Cleaning and Maintenance Services** in the subject header; or applicants may also submit a hardcopy at the following address (late bids will not be accepted):

Director General
Belize Tax Service Department
Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I. Boulevard, Belize City

Good Deeds Day Organization Donates to Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs

August 28, 2025 - The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs received a generous donation from the Good Deeds Day Organization to benefit young mothers and children in institutional care.

At a handover ceremony held yesterday afternoon at the Belize City Council, the Good Deeds Day Organization, represented by Mrs. Charlotte Neal, presented: 30 female hygiene kits for young mothers at the Home for Teen Mothers; four refurbished laptops for the New Beginnings Resource Center; two fifty-inch smart televisions for the Dorothy Menzies Child Care Center

Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs, received the donation on behalf of the Ministry and expressed appreciation for the timely and thoughtful contribution, stating, "The support provided by the Good Deeds Day Organization will greatly enhance the services we deliver to our children and young mothers. These resources not only meet immediate needs but also provide tools that help strengthen education, development, and overall well-being."

The Ministry extends its sincere gratitude to the Good Deeds Day Organization for its ongoing commitment to community development and for its support of the Ministry's mission to empower children, families, and vulnerable groups throughout Belize. (release)

100K for Belize's Birthday Appreciation to BWS & DIGI

The Belize Water Services Limited and the Digi each have donated FIFTY Thousand Belize Dollars to the fantastic effort to make our 44th Birthday a more memorable and celebratory one.

Request For Bids (RFB)

Institution:	Belize Airports Authority
Country:	BELIZE
IFB Title:	Apron Works Placencia and Dangriga Airstrip
IFB Number:	NCB01/2025

The Belize Airports Authority (BAA) hereby invites qualified contractors to submit bids for specific Apron construction works at the Placencia and Dangriga Airstrips, that will include excavation and site preparation of the apron areas and cement works.

Bids must be submitted in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders and Bidding Documents that can be obtained (free of cost) from the BAA's office located at the Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airstrip in Belize City, between the hours of **09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. local time Belize – Monday to Friday,** or via email at vinaybhojwani@baabz.org and delvitcastillo@baabz.org, or downloaded from the website: MOF procurement website.

The BAA invites all interested contractors to a Prebid Meeting including site visit, that will be held as follows:

1. **September 8, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Placencia Airstrip**
2. **September 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m. at the Dangriga Airstrip**

Qualified contractors should submit three (3) hardcopies of their Bids and all required documentation to the following address:

Belize Airports Authority
Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport
Belize City
(Ref: Apron Works – Placencia/Dangriga)

Deadline for the submissions of bids is 1**0:00 a.m. local time Belize on September 15th, 2025.**
Late bids will not be accepted.

Request For Proposals (RFP)

Institution:	Belize Airports Authority
Country:	BELIZE
IFB Title:	Security Services
IFB Number:	NCB02/2025

The Belize Airports Authority (BAA) hereby invites qualified contractors to submit proposals for aviation security screening services at the following airstrips:

a. **John Grief II – San Pedro**
b. **Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport – Belize City**
c. **Punta Gorda Airstrip**
d. **Placencia Airstrip**
e. **Ranchito Airstrip – Corozal**
f. **Pelican Beach Airstrip – Dangriga**
g. **Caye Caulker Municipal**

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders and Proposal Documents that can be obtained (free of cost) from the BAA's office located at the Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airstrip in Belize City, between the hours of **09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. local time Belize – Monday to Friday,** or via email at vinaybhojwani@baabz.org and delvitcastillo@baabz.org, or downloaded from the website: MOF procurement website.

The BAA invites all interested companies to a mandatory Pre-proposal Meeting including site visits, that will be held from **September 15th to September 19th, 2025.**

Qualified contractors should submit three (3) hardcopies of their proposals and all required documentation to the following address:
Belize Airports Authority
Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport
Belize City
(Ref: Apron Works – Placencia/Dangriga)

Deadline for the submissions of bids is **10:00 a.m. local time Belize on October 3rd , 2025.**
Late proposals will not be accepted.

Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE: FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize´s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities' livelihoods.

The Finance Assistant will sit within the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence (BBFP) Unit's Finance Section and will be funded under the GEF BGI-IP project. While the Finance Assistant will be supervised daily by the BBFP Finance Officer, the position will work in close collaboration with the Project Manager to ensure effective project execution and timely financial and administrative support.

The Finance Assistant will be responsible for supporting all financial and operational aspects of the project, including project budgeting, financial tracking and reporting, procurement support, and adherence to administrative and financial procedures. The role requires ensuring full compliance with the fiduciary, procurement, and reporting requirements of WWF (as the GEF Agency), and the Government of Belize. .

In addition, the Finance Assistant will provide financial and administrative assistance to project staff, grantees, and implementing partners, ensuring that budgets, contracts, and agreements are managed in accordance with WWF and GEF standards, as well as Government of Belize policies

Role and Responsibilities

1. Financial Management
- Assist in the preparation, review, and monitoring of annual budgets and expenditure reports, flagging discrepancies or issues as needed.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of all financial transactions, ensuring documentation is well organized, readily accessible, and auditable and validates and certifies payments before submission to the Finance Officer to ensure accuracy, eligibility, and compliance with approved budgets.
- Ensure project funds are used in accordance with the Project Document, WWF fiduciary standards, GEF financial policies, and Government of Belize financial rules and procedures.
- Provides timely financial information to the Finance Officer and Project Manager to support project management decisions.
- Track co-financing contributions and prepare financial documentation required for reporting to the WWF-GEF Agency.

2. Procurement and Contract Support
- Assist the Project Manager and Finance Officer with procurement processes, ensuring compliance with WWF GEF, and GoB regulations.
- Prepare procurement documents (e.g., purchase orders, contracts) and maintain an updated procurement register.
- Support preparation, administration, and monitoring of contracts, grant agreements, and consultant agreements to ensure compliance with terms and conditions.
- Ensures agreements and payments are processed timely and in accordance with WWF GEF, and Government of Belize policies and audit requirements prepares paperwork for approvals, secure required signatures, and ensure distribution of documents to relevant parties

3. Compliance, Reporting, and Audits
- Coordinate and prepare financial progress reports for submission to the Finance Officer, Project Manager, and WWF GEF Agency, ensuring compliance with donor requirements.
- Assists in the preparation of project progress reports.
- Prepare timely financial inputs for twice annual Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and annual reporting requirements.
- Support external and internal audits by preparing documentation, responding to queries, and ensuring recommendations are implemented.
- Assist with mid-term and terminal evaluations by providing financial information and supporting the implementation of corrective actions related to financial findings.
- Regularly monitor compliance with WWF GEF reporting requirements and project deadlines.

4. Administrative and Operational Support
- Assists the Finance Officer in the day-to-day financial administration and oversight of project activities in office.
- Ensure all project documentation (e.g., financial report, progress reports, consultant and technical reports, meeting minutes, correspondence) is properly maintained in both hard and electronic copies.
- Provides PMU-related administrative and logistical support for workshops, training, meetings and other related activities.
- Maintains an organized filing system for all project financial and administrative records, including agreements. Regularly monitors compliance with WWF reporting requirements and project deadlines, and ensures reports are acknowledged and routed appropriately.
- Provide support in coordinating special projects and ad hoc requests from the Finance Officer or Project Manager.
- Perform any other related tasks assigned by the Finance Officer or Project Manager in support of effective project implementation

5. Other Duties

Core Competencies
- Ability to manage budgets, monitor expenditures, validate payments, and ensure compliance with donor and government financial procedures.
- Proven skills in preparing accurate financial reports and maintaining comprehensive records to support audits, evaluations, and donor reporting.
- Experienced in processing payments, drafting financial documentation, ensuring compliance with procurement procedures, and coordinating project logistics.
- Advanced skills in Microsoft Excel and experience with accounting systems such as QuickBooks.
- Effective written and verbal communicator who can liaise with executing partners and prepare clear documentation for diverse stakeholders.
- Proficient in maintaining comprehensive, well-structured financial and administrative records to support audits, evaluations, and reporting.
- Works collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team to achieve project goals, while remaining adaptable, accountable, and focused on high-quality service delivery.
- Sound analytical and problem-solving abilities to identify discrepancies, assess risks, and propose corrective actions to support project decision-making

6. Qualifications and Requirements

The Project Finance Assistant will be recruited based on the following qualifications.

Academic Qualifications
- Minimum of an Associate Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration.
- A Bachelor's Degree (or higher) in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or a related field will be considered an asset.
- Professional certification or training in accounting, bookkeeping, financial management, or procurement would be an asset.

General Experience
- At least three (3) years of professional experience in financial management, accounting, budgeting or related areas.
- A minimum of one (1) year experience working within donor-funded projects, government institutions, or NGOs is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate in multidisciplinary teams and maintain effective working relationships with diverse stakeholders.

Specific Experience
- A minimum of two (2) years demonstrated ability to manage finances in accordance with established financial guidelines within private and/or public sector.
- Proven experience in budget preparation, financial reporting, expenditure monitoring, and audit support.
- Practical knowledge of Government of Belize financial and procurement regulations is an asset.
- Working experience in accounting/financial software, such as QuickBooks, or other relevant systems.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel.
- Experience in procurement processes, contract administration, and grant monitoring, ensuring compliance in accordance with established financial guidelines within private and/or public sector.
- Record management skills, ensuring financial and administrative documentation is organized, accessible, and audit ready.
- Demonstrated ability to identify financial discrepancies, assess risks, and recommend corrective actions to support project decision-making.
- Commitment to integrity, accountability, and confidentiality in managing financial information and project resources.
- Willingness to travel within Belize and to work outside normal office hours (nights and weekends), when required.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements: The salary of the contract is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The estimated Starting Date and Duration: Start date will be effective at contract signature. Contracts are renewed biennially based on an assessment of performance. This position requires full-time commitment.

Interested persons can send an Application Letter and CV along with three references to email: RBBPM.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address **by Friday, 12th September 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

RBB Project Manager
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City
RE: Finance Assistant

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview with the Committee. Due diligence will be done to validate the information included in the CV and provided during interviews.

Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE:
Project Communications Specialist

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize´s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanent Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities' livelihoods.

A cornerstone of this project is partnership with Belize's coastal and fishing communities. These communities are at the frontlines of conservation and resource management, and their participation, knowledge, and stewardship are critical to the project's success. As such, communication and outreach efforts must go beyond awareness-raising and actively engage communities in shaping, owning, and sustaining conservation outcomes.

The Communications Specialist will therefore play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between technical conservation efforts, government priorities, and the lived realities of local stakeholders. By translating complex information into accessible messages, facilitating dialogue with fisherfolk and community leaders, and ensuring that community voices are reflected in national and global platforms, the Specialist will help strengthen trust, participation, and long-term sustainability of conservation initiatives in Belize.

Objective

Under the supervision of the Project Manager, the Communication Specialist will aim to increase overall visibility of the project and its achievements and ensure communications on and around the project actions and impacts are disseminated on national and international levels. The engagement of a dedicated communication staff member will provide consistent, high-quality and effective products that can strengthen the project implementation in Belize and share best practices and key learnings with a wider audience through the BGI-IP Hub and Global Coordination Project. Strategic communications activities and knowledge management products may be used to facilitate future PFP and BGI-IP initiatives and will be shared broadly. The communications specialist will also play a key role in connecting with the larger Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program under the GEF, sharing communications products and collaborating on best practices.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Communications Specialist will be responsible for the following:

1. Strategic Communication and Outreach:
- Develop and implement a project communication plan that raises awareness of the Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) Project, ensuring alignment with the BBFP Communication Strategy and Implementation plan, national priorities and community realities.
- Produce and disseminate communication products (print, broadcast, audiovisual, and digital) tailored to diverse audiences including government, civil society, academia, donors, and local coastal/fishing communities.
- Translate technical and policy information into clear, accessible messages that resonate with fisherfolk and other community stakeholders.
- Develop a publicly accessible website hosted by BBFP U for the project, to showcase project documents, lessons learned and project successes.

2. Community and Stakeholder Engagement:
- Lead communication and outreach activities with protected areas managers, ensuring the use of clear, culturally appropriate, and participatory approaches that support their role in conservation and stakeholder engagement using culturally appropriate and participatory approaches.
- Organize and deliver presentations, workshops, and dialogues with fisherfolk, community leaders, and stakeholders to share project goals, progress, and opportunities.
- Support executing partners (MPA and PA managers) in organizing regional/local stakeholder meetings and lead an annual national-level meeting to inform stakeholders, decision-makers, media, and the public on project progress.
- Contribute to the organization of events planned as part of the project

3. Media Relations and Social Media:
- Build and maintain strong relationships with media outlets to ensure accurate and consistent coverage of RBB project activities.
- Plan and coordinate media events, press releases, radio programs, and campaigns that highlight project achievements and lessons learned.
- Develop and manage the project's online presence, including website updates, social media posts, and engagement on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube; ensure the platforms are updated weekly.

4. Knowledge Management and Documentation:
- Support in the development of the project's promotional material and publications.
- Collect, document and produce lessons learned, good practices, and success stories for dissemination nationally, regionally, and globally.
- Ensure the editing of project document (reports, presentations, etc.) and alignment with WWF GEF and Government of Belize Communications guidelines and branding.
- Collaborate with the Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Management Officer to capture and present project progress and lessons at national, regional, and international forums.
- Maintain a photo/video database and ensure proper storage of communication materials for long-term use.

5. Coordination and Technical Support:
- Collaborate closely with the Project Manager, BBFP Unit, partner agencies, and community organizations to ensure coherence in communication efforts.
- Contribute to gender-sensitive and inclusive communication approaches in all project activities.
- Provide communication support during community consultations, policy dialogues, technical meetings, and project events.
- Be available to travel to coastal communities and participate in evening or weekend activities as required.
- Be available to travel to Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program regional or global events

6. 4. Technical Delivery of Project Components:
- Component 3 will focus on Strengthened communications, coordination and knowledge management at national and global levels in alignment with the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program.

Within this component, the project communications specialist will contribute to:

3.1.1. OUTPUT: Strategic gender-inclusive communications plan designed and implemented:
- Strategic gender-inclusive communications plan designed to include required project reports, communications products to be produced (such as videos, social media posts)
- Facilitation of communication efforts for project coordination among all stakeholders.

3.1.2 OUTPUT: Accessible project lessons captured and disseminated including through Knowledge Management products and platforms, including.

Communications materials designed and developed such as best practice manuals; case studies; technical reports and in coordination with the MEK officer, dissemination of knowledge materials in an accessible and gender-sensitive manner to relevant projects, programs, and initiatives.

Accessible project lessons captured and disseminated including through Knowledge Management Products.

3.1.3. OUTPUT: Participation in BGI IP Communications events and workshops

Staff remain in close communication with BGI IP and attend quarterly virtual calls with the IP.

Qualifications and Experience

Education:
- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Studies, Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or related field.
- Certification or training in Sustainable Communication, Environmental Communication, or related specialization is an asset.

Professional Experience:
- At least five (5) years of proven experience in communications at the national and regional levels, including social media and online communications.
- Minimum of two (2) years of direct experience engaging Belizean coastal and fishing communities, with strong understanding of their socio-economic realities, cultural context, and environmental challenges.
- Experience in developing and delivering presentations and workshops, particularly with fisherfolk and grassroots community groups.
- Demonstrated experience in collecting and managing data and information from fisherfolk and local communities for knowledge management and reporting.
- Proven experience working with managing entities such as community-based organizations, NGOs, government agencies, or fisheries cooperatives in Belize's marine and coastal sector.

Skills and Competencies:
- Strong knowledge of Belize's community environment, governance structures, and the social context of coastal and fishing communities.
- Ability to translate technical and conservation concepts into clear, accessible communication products for diverse audiences (local communities, policymakers, donors, and international stakeholders).
- Demonstrated skills in media relations, audiovisual content creation (photography, videography), and use of digital platforms (social media, websites).
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; Spanish is considered an asset
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and familiarity with multimedia and design tools (e.g., Adobe Creative Suite, video editing software).
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, and willingness to travel extensively within Belize, regionally or internationally.

Personal Qualities:
- Strong interpersonal skills with proven ability to build trust and maintain relationships in multicultural and community settings.
- Creative, adaptable, solution-oriented, and committed to conservation and sustainable development.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements: The salary of the contract is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The estimated Starting Date and Duration: Start date will be effective at contract signature. Contracts are renewed biennially based on an assessment of performance. This position requires full-time commitment.

Interested persons can send an Application Letter and CV along with three references to email: RBBPM.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address **by Friday, 12th September 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

RBB Project Manager
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City
RE: Finance Assistant

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview with the Committee. Due diligence will be done to validate the information included in the CV and provided during interviews.

Press Release

Temporary Suspension of Certain Shipments to the United States

Belize City, August 27th, 2025

The United States Government issued an Executive Order (EO) 14324 *"Suspending Duty-Free De Minimis Treatment for All Countries"*, which will take effect on August 29, 2025. This executive order eliminated the longstanding de minimis duty-free exemption for low-value shipments.

- Goods are now taxed from the first dollar, whereas previously they were duty-free up to USD 800.00.
- These customs duties are now the responsibility of the sender, not the recipient, and must be paid to US Customs and Border Protection before the item enters the United States.

Without this exemption limit, every shipment of goods, no matter how small or how valuable, must be declared and cleared with U.S. Customs, except for the exemptions stated below.

- Sending gifts to individuals of less than USD 100 (this threshold includes the value of the merchandise as well as postage cost).
- Mail documents containing only documents.

Therefore, effective Wednesday, August 27, 2025, the Belize Postal Service will suspend certain shipments containing goods to the United States until further notice.

This new rule will affect all postal operators worldwide and is scheduled to take effect on August 29, 2025. Important questions regarding liability, tax collection procedures, and the implementation of new requirements remain unresolved.

Please take note of the following:

- District Post Offices (countrywide, except Belize City) last acceptance of packages containing goods will be midday, Wednesday, August 27, 2025.
- Belize City Post Office's last acceptance of packages containing goods will be 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

We are making every effort to enable the resumption of all shipments as soon as possible in compliance with the new regulations. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this temporary suspension may cause and appreciate your understanding as we work to adapt to these new United States regulations.(release)

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: RESILIENT RURAL BELIZE PROGRAMME

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE – SANTA CRUZ ROAD (5.2 KM)
Reference Number: RRB.W.17

INVITATION TO BID – WORKS

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US$5 Million towards the cost of the Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party, other than GOB, shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The Resilient Rural Belize Programme (RRB) is the Executing Agency for the Project, and the Ministry of Finance, Investment, **Economic Transformation**, Civil Aviation & E-Governance, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The RRB invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km)**. The works include, but may not be limited to the following:

The upgrading of the Santa Cruz Road and the San Jose Village Road, Toledo District. On completion, the project shall upgrade 5.2 km of roadway to traversable standard and will include the following:

- Clearing of Road Reserve
- Undercutting of soft material and dispose
- Excavate or clean side drains
- Minor waterway training and cleaning
- Supply and install concrete Culvert Units as per Drawings
- Construct Wingwalls, Aprons and Headwalls
- Supply and backfill culvert units with suitable material
- Supply, transport, place and compact fill materials
- Supply, transport, place and compact surface dressing materials (double chip seal surface layer)
- Road signage and markings
- Repair steel bridge girders
- Construct new reinforced concrete bridges

The bidding process is conducted according to the procedures specified in the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website and is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Bidders are advised to review the relevant eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

Firms whether applying individually or in the form of a Joint Venture, shall:

(a) be legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;

(b) be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially-owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and

(c) shall have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangement whereby the majority of the financial benefits of the contract, i.e. more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the contract, will accrue or be paid to sub-contractors or sub-consultants that are not from an Eligible Country.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

(a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of Belize Dollars Seven Million (BZD 7,000,000);

(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Belize Dollars Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand (BZD 456,000); and

(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) assignment of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least eighty (80) percent complete).

Bidding and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required or that do not demonstrate the prospective supplier's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Requests for bidding documents may be made in writing to the first address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: "Request for Bid Documents for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km)".

The electronic Bidding submission procedures are as follows: Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the second email address stated below. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids.

Hard copies of Bids must be submitted as follows: one (1) original and two (2) copies in one envelope sealed and marked as indicated in the bidding document, with the name and address of the bidder, and be clearly marked "Bid for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km) and in addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed envelope, to the third address below. Electronic or physical bids must be delivered no later than **October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (local time)**. Bids will be opened, publicly, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the second address below. Qualification information only must be submitted, simultaneously, to the third address below.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation action. GOB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.[2]

(1) Address and information for Requesting Bidding Documents and Requesting Clarifications:	(2) Address and information for electronic Bid Submission and Bid Opening:	(3) Address and information for Physical Bid Submission and Bid Opening Venue: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A. Electronic mail address: lpalacio.rrb@met.gov.bz Copied to: Nadia Vernon, nvernon.rrb@met.gov.bz	Electronic mail address: procurement.rrb@met.gov.bz	Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Media Must Do Better

Dear Editor,

The media's core responsibility is to inform, challenge power, and protect truth. Yet today, many outlets have become addicted to clickbait and fear-mongering—trading journalistic integrity for engagement metrics. This dereliction not only erodes public trust but actively distorts reality, and breeds misinformed division instead of clarity and understanding.

It is not enough to blame your audiences. Editors and journalists must take ownership of the role they play in shaping narratives, as this is not journalism; it is manipulation. The public relies on media to be a stabilizing force, not one that stokes anxiety for advertisement profit.

Further, I feel compelled to question the stance of the Jules character. His repeated dismissals of intelligent women—often couched in subtle condescension or overt generalization—suggest a deeper bias that has no place in a platform claiming to value fairness and insight. Why does intellect in women seem to provoke discomfort in his commentary? Why is confidence so often misread as arrogance when commenting on women achievements?

If we are to have meaningful discourse and a media worth trusting, we must demand higher standards—of reporting, of tone, and of the people given platforms. That includes a reckoning with internal biases, gendered or otherwise.

Sincerely,
Proud Belizean

Belize Forest Department Jaguar Pelt Confiscated in Belize City

On August 19, 2025, the Belize Forest Department, in collaboration with the Belize Police Department, conducted an enforcement operation in Belize City that led to the confiscation of a jaguar pelt. The operation was launched following several tips and concerns from the public, conservation groups, and stakeholders regarding the public sale and display of the jaguar pelt on social media.

During the operation, Ms. Lidear Lino was found in possession of the jaguar pelt and has been charged under the Wildlife Protection Act (Cap. 220). The jaguar pelt was successfully confiscated and secured as evidence. Preliminary assessments suggest the pelt was taken from a juvenile or female jaguar *(Panthera onca)*, a strictly protected species in Belize. Jaguars are keystone species, playing a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. They are protected internationally under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as well as under national laws through the Wildlife Protection Act.

The Belize Forest Department reminds the public that it is illegal to possess any wildlife, wildlife parts (such as pelts, teeth, or feathers), nests, eggs, or other wildlife derivatives. There are no permits that authorize individuals to keep wildlife parts under any circumstances. Offenders are liable to a fine of BZ$10,000.

The Belize Forest Department urges all Belizeans to play their part in protecting wildlife and discouraging illegal trade. Anyone with information on forest crime is encouraged to report it through the Belize Forest Department social media pages or at the hotline number 610-1524.

Together, we can stop illegal wildlife trade and ensure that future generations inherit a Belize rich in biodiversity and natural heritage. (release)

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: RESILIENT RURAL BELIZE PROGRAMME

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE – SAN JOSE FARM ROAD (3.5KM)
Reference Number: RRB.W.16

INVITATION TO BID – WORKS

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US$5 Million towards the cost of the Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party, other than GOB, shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The Resilient Rural Belize Programme (RRB) is the Executing Agency for the Project, and the Ministry of Finance, Investment, **Economic Transformation**, Civil Aviation & E-Governance, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The RRB invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km), Toledo District.** The works include, but may not be limited to the following:

The upgrading of the San Jose Farm Road, Toledo District. On completion, the project shall upgrade 3.5 km of roadway to traversable standard and will include the following:

- Clearing of Road Reserve
- Undercutting of soft material and dispose
- Excavate or clean side drains
- Installation of grouted rip rap for embankment protection
- Supply and install concrete Ford Crossings as per Drawings
- Supply, transport, place and compact fill materials

The bidding process is conducted according to the procedures specified in the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website and is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Bidders are advised to review the relevant eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

Firms whether applying individually or in the form of a Joint Venture, shall:

(a) be legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;
(b) be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially-owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and
(c) shall have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangement whereby the majority of the financial benefits of the contract, i.e. more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the contract, will accrue or be paid to sub-contractors or sub-consultants that are not from an Eligible Country.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:

(a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Belize Dollars Five Million (BZD 5,000,000);

(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Belize Dollars Three Hundred Seventy Thousand (BZD 370,000); and

(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) assignment of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Bidding and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required or that do not demonstrate the prospective supplier's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Requests for bidding documents may be made, in writing, to the first address below. Written applications must be clearly marked: "Request for Bid Documents for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km)".

The electronic Bidding submission procedures are as follows: Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the second email address stated below. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids.

Hard copies of Bids must be submitted as follows: one (1) original and two (2) copies in one envelope sealed and marked as indicated in the bidding document, with the name and address of the bidder, and be clearly marked "Bid for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km)" and in addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed envelope, to the third address below. Electronic or physical bids must be delivered no later than **October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (local time).** Bids will be opened, publicly, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the third address below.

Each bid must be accompanied Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOB/Ministry of Economic Transformation action. GOB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

(1) Address and information for Requesting Bidding Documents and Requesting Clarifications:	(2) Address and information for electronic Bid Submission and Bid Opening:	(3) Address and information for Physical Bid Submission and Bid Opening
Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A. Electronic mail address: lpalacio.rrb@met.gov.bz Copied to: Nadia Vernon, nvernon.rrb@met.gov.bz	Electronic mail address: procurement.rrb@met.gov.bz	Venue: Resilient Rural Belize Programme Attention: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Showgrounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A.

Belize's 4th National Climate Week 2025

"Adapting Today, Sustaining Tomorrow: Resilient Roots, Greener Future"

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management, through the National Climate Change Office (NCCO), is proud to announce Belize's Fourth National Climate Week, taking place from August 25-28, 2025, at Caribbean Motors, Belize City. The event will feature panel discussions and interactive booths and is open to all interested Belizeans. It will be followed by the National Climate Finance Forum on August 29, 2025, at Grand Resort and Residences, a closed-door session and not open to the public.

Held under the theme "Adapting Today, Sustaining Tomorrow: Resilient Roots, Greener Future," Climate Week will open with a keynote address by the Prime Minister of Belize, Honourable John Briceño (speech on page 7 in this publication), and will feature a dynamic series of events, including:

- Day 1: Opening Ceremony and Youth Engagement
- Day 2: Forestry and Agriculture Showcase
- Day 3: Energy, Water, and Biodiversity Showcase
- Day 4: Policy, Youth, and Indigenous Leadership Focus
- Day 5: National Climate Finance Forum in collaboration with the Climate Finance Unit (CFU)

(look out for their posts and live events on several ministry pages)

Climate Week 2025 aims to raise awareness about the evolution and significance of the Conference of Parties (COP) process while fostering dialogue and highlighting Belize's national climate efforts, including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), carbon market implementation, and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The event will also amplify the voices and leadership of women, Indigenous people, and youth in climate decision-making, promoting inclusive engagement as key pillars of climate resilience.

The National Climate Finance Forum will conclude the week, providing project proponents and stakeholders with a valuable platform to connect with potential funders, strengthen partnerships, and explore opportunities to secure the financing needed to implement tangible, high-impact climate actions across the country.

Throughout the week, informational and interactive booths representing government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, business enterprises, and food vendors will be available on-site, fostering engagement and collaboration among participants. For more details and to access the full agenda of Climate Week 2025, please click the link: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16qNE5CBjV/ (release)

VACANCY NOTICE

LEGISLATURE – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

POSITION: DEPUTY CLRK

Application are invited from suitable qualified persons to fill (1) position of **Deputy Clerk** for the Legislature at the National Assembly.

The National Assembly is the Legislature or Parliament of Belize. It consists of two Houses, that is, the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House). The thirty-one (31) Members of the House of Representatives are elected in a general election under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Meanwhile, the thirteen (13) Members of the Senate are nominated and appointed by the Governor General of Belize, in accordance with the Constitution of Belize.
The National Assembly Staff (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2003, define how staff of the National Assembly are governed.

Basic Purpose of Position:

Overview of the Position
The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of Belize (the Parliament) is a senior administrative and procedural officer of the parliament, supporting the Clerk of Parliament in managing the operations of the legislature. The role of the Deputy Clerk is essential in ensuring efficient conduct of parliamentary procedures, effective administration of parliamentary matters and to provide for continued operational management in the absence of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

1. Essential Duties and Responsibilities

1. **Procedural Support**
   - Assists the Clerk in advising the Presiding Officers, Members of Parliament (MPs), and parliamentary committees on rules, procedures, and constitutional matters
   - Supports the preparation and review of parliamentary agendas, order papers, reports and minutes of proceedings.
   - Assists the Clerk in ensuring all MPs receive the Order Papers and all relevant documents required for House and Senate meetings
   - Assists the Clerk in ensuring that notices and communiques are issued before every sitting of the House of Representatives, Senate and Parliamentary Committee Meetings
   - Ensures compliance with parliamentary rules, standing orders, and constitutional provisions
   - Ensures the proper records management and maintenance of official parliamentary debates (Hansard) and other legislative documents
   - Deputizes for the Clerk when needed on all procedural and legislative support to members of parliament

2. **Administrative and Management Responsibilities**
   - Assists the Clerk with the the day-to-day administration of the Parliament and its staff
   - Supervises parliamentary staff, ensuring efficiency and professionalism
   - Works with the Clerk on recommendations for the development of processes and administration of the National Assembly and its staff
   - Coordinates parliamentary budgets, financial management, and resource allocation for the Legislature and
   - Assists the Clerk with the development of annual budget estimates

3. **Coordination and Public Engagement**
   - Acts as the primary liaison officer between Parliament and the executive, judiciary, and other stakeholders
   - Facilitates communication between the House and the Senate, parliament and the public, including media relation
   - Oversees the visits, outreach programs, and educational initiatives to promote public understanding of the parliament's work.
   - Works with the Clerk on Branch Secretary duties for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and its networks, FOPREL, Inter-Parliamentary Union, ParlAmericas and any other parliamentary networks where applicable and identified by the Clerk
   - Serves as Secretary to the National Assembly Staff Committee

4. **Support to Parliamentary Committees**
   - Works with the Clerk to Committees and provides administrative and procedural support to parliamentary committees
   - Ensures proper documentation of committee meetings, reports, and recommendations
   - Advises committee chairs and members on best practices for conducting inquiries and debates

2. The Candidate should possess the following qualifications and skills:

Skills and Experience Required:

- Strong knowledge of constitutional law, parliamentary procedures, and governance would be an asset
- Good organizational, leadership, and communication skills
- Experience in legal, administrative, or legislative affairs
- Ability to work in a politically neutral and professional manner
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Minimum of 5 years in Supervisory or Management Level
- Fluency and competency in the English Language. Working knowledge of the Spanish language would be an asset

Reporting/Supervisory Responsibility:

- Accountable to the Clerk, Presiding Officers and the National Assembly Staff Committee
- Liaises regularly with the Cabinet Secretary for meetings of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Annual Performance Appraisal is conducted by the Clerk of the National Assembly

Special Work Conditions (where applicable):

The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly works in a unique and highly demanding environment that requires flexibility, confidentiality and political neutrality. The Deputy Clerk often works beyond regular office hours especially during parliamentary sessions, debates and committee meetings. The Deputy Clerk may be required to work weekends, holidays, late nights or early mornings depending on parliamentary schedules. The Deputy Clerk must handle confidential government and legislative information with discretion and is expected to remain impartial and professional despite political tensions and disagreements.[1]

Academic Qualification:

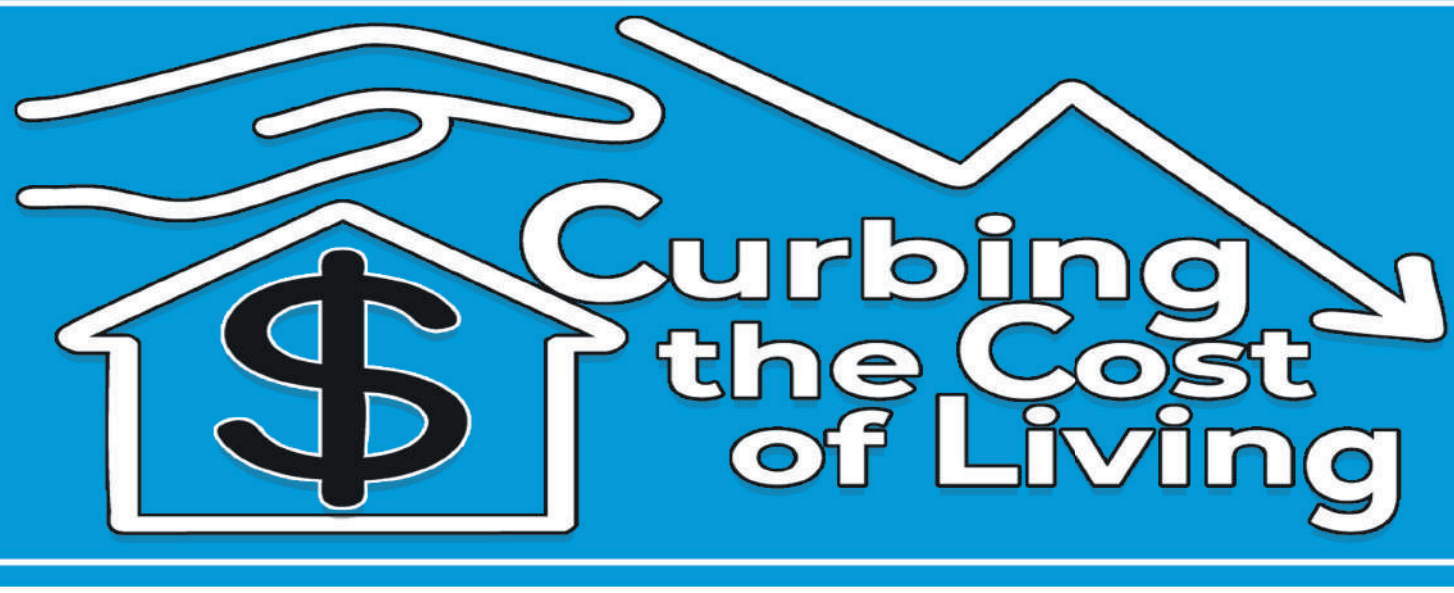
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration Management or Organizational Management
- Parliamentary Procedures Training at the Certificate Level would be an asset

3. Salary:

Equivalent to Government's Payscale 24 of $42,000 x 1,644 - $73,236 per annum.

Deadline for applications

Interested persons who are in possession of the required qualification and experience and have the aptitude for the post of this nature are requested to submit a complete application package which must include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of relevant qualifications, a copy of a recent Police record to **The Clerk, National Assembly, Price Centre Road, Belmopan**, no later than **5th September, 2025.**



#planBelize 2.0

Progress for All Belizeans

Cost of Living Relief

- ✓ Minimum wage raised from $5 to $6/hr.
- ✓ 8.5% salary increase for teachers and public servants.
- ✓ GST-Free weekends for Back-to-School and Christmas.
- ✓ Expanded list of controlled goods and crackdown on price gouging.

Education Gains

- ✓ Free education for over 12,000 students at 23 schools.
- ✓ Tuition, books, devices, uniforms, meals, and transport covered.
- ✓ Raised subsidies for the University of Belize and financial aid for students.
- ✓ Healthy Start meals for 15,000 students daily.

Healthcare for All

- ✓ Free public hospital services.
- ✓ Expanded NHI coverage.
- ✓ People's Boledo proceeds supporting health care and sports.

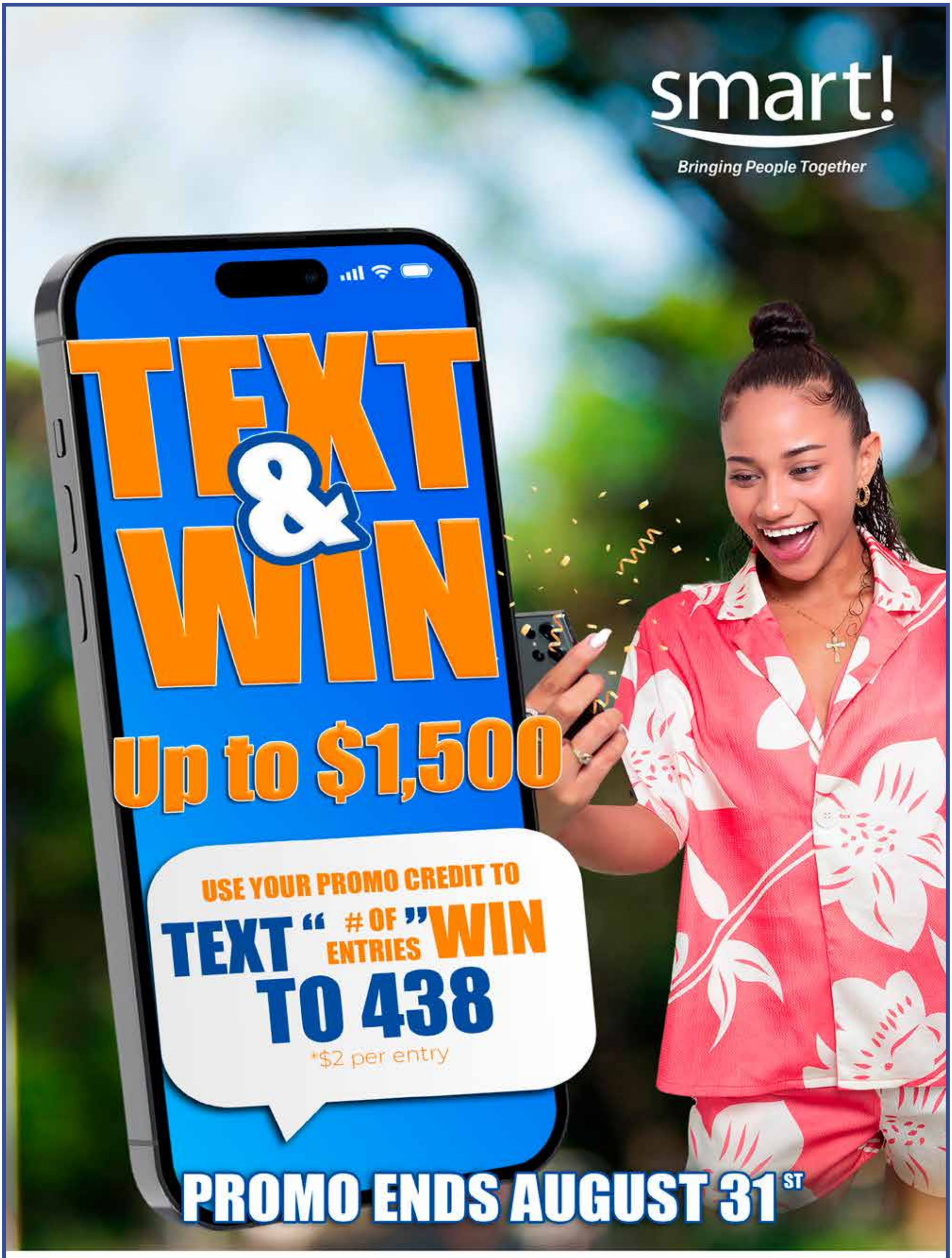
Energy & Fuel Savings

- ✓ Stabilized cost of regular and diesel fuels.
- ✓ Butane savings passed on to consumers.

Support for Women & Families

- ✓ GST and customs duty removed on feminine hygiene products.
- ✓ Improved access to housing and land, reducing rental burdens.

#planBelize 2.0



FOR MORE INFO: 1090 OR 670-1096 | WWW.SMART-BZ.COM